Step 18
Kikuchi Hikaru
AWWW, I'M ALL BY MYSELF IN ANOTHER CLASS
AWESOME, WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS!
I'M SO HAPPY!
HEY, WHAT CLASS ARE YOU IN MIYUKI-CHAN?
I'M IN—
THIS SUCKS...
MMN...

NEW SURROUNDINGS.
NEW CLASSMATES.
NEW SCHOOL.
I MANAGED TO MAKE IT THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT I WONDER IF I'LL BE ALRIGHT NOW THAT I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I WONDER WHAT CLASS I'M IN.
OH WELL. GOTTA DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO.
I KEEP RECALLING THE TIME I WAS ALL ALONE. IT'S MAKING ME ANXIOUS.
EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT "YUI" RIGHT NOW,
ざわざわ
ザワザワ
Gah, I'm stuck in class Three!
Who else is in that class?

WHAT CLASS ARE YOU IN, YUI?
CLASS THREE
AH, OK...
YOU'RE IN CLASS ONE, BY THE WAY
REALLY? I WONDER IF ANYONE I KNOW IS IN THAT CLASS.
サワ
サワ
OH!
THE CLASS CHART IS UP
ひょこっ
MORNING, KAZUMA.
G'MORNING SO YOU'RE IN CLASS THREE HUH, YUI?
YEAH, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE SEPERATED THIS YEAR. WHAT CLASS ARE YOU IN KAZUMA?
Umm
CLASS ONE.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING IN THE SAME CLASS AS YOU YUUTA
THE S'ME AS ME?
TOGETHER... HUH.
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE TOGETHER AGAIN YUUTA!
SO I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS HIM AGAIN.

1-1
YEAH, LAST TIME WE WERE TOGETHER WAS FOURTH GRADE
WE HAVEN'T BEEN IN THE SAME CLASS SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE, KAZUMA.
IT MAKES ME FEEL A LOT BET—
—TER
こつんっ
AH.

S-SORRY ABOUT THAT!
NO WORRIES
OH, YOU'RE THE GUY WHO SITS IN FRONT OF ME
ニパッ
I'M KIKUCHI HIKARU! NICE TO MEET YOU!
KIMURA YUUTA, NICE TO MEET YOU.
Hello
AND YOU ARE
WAIT! AREN'T YOU THE GUY WHO LED THE FRESHMAN ASSEMBLY, TAKAOKA?
WOW! THE PERSON WHO SCORED THE HIGHEST ON THE ENTRANCE EXAM IS THE ONE WHO GETS TO LEAD THE ASSEMBLY, RIGHT?
ズイッ
YOU MUST BE SUPER SMART!
YOU'RE PRETTY HANDSOME TOO!
N-NOT REALLY
WERE YOU REALLY POPULAR BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE LYING! YOU MUST HAVE AT LEAST HAD A GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING, RIGHT!?
....

U-UMM, KAZUMA IS...
OHH, SO YOUR FIRST NAME IS KAZUMA?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE PRETTY POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS TOO YUUTA-KUN.
get a girlfriend?
N-NO, I DON'T BUT—
COUNTLESS GIRLS HAVE FALLEN FOR THIS SPECTACULAR FACE—
BUT NONE OF MY RELATIONSHIPS LASTED LONG...
I SEE
YOU KNOW, I PUT MY FEELINGS FROM ALL OF THOSE EXPERIENCES INTO MY MUSIC AND MADE SONGS OUT OF THEM!
THESE ARE ALL GREAT SONGS!
WANNA LISTEN TO THEM!?
NO THANK YOU!
LOOKS LIKE I'VE RUN INTO A RATHER ECCENTRIC PERSON ON THE FIRST DAY.

ホゥ〜
SO..
IN OTHER WORDS.
CLASS THREE, HUH.
THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYONE I KNOW FROM ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL.
キラッ
I CAN DO WHATEVER I WANT!
I CAN JUST GO ABOUT DOING THINGS THE WAY I WANT TO FOR ONCE.
HEY, WAIT!
SEEING HOW YUI'S NOT GOING TO NAG ME AS MUCH AS SHE USED TO,
!?
カッ
シャーン!!
OWWW...
カリタ
....

STOP FUCKING WITH ME!
HUH?
YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH MY HAIR COLOR TOO?
FUCK OFF!
YOU THINK DYEING YOUR HAIR CHANGES ANYTHING YOU ORANGE-HEAD!?
YOU'RE STILL A SHITTY LITTLE BRAT.
WOW, WHAT A FLASHY HAIR COLOR.
OH? I DARE YOU TO SAY THAT AGAIN
L-LEMME GO
UH OH.

LET'S NOT FIGHT ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHO—
HEY YOU TWO
Gah.
UH OH—
person who threw the shoe
S-SORRY!
....

W-WHY ONLY ME?
YOU DO KNOW..
HOW BIG A SIN IT IS TO HARM A GIRL'S FACE,
RIGHT?

AH—
…
THIS IS JUST LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
DAMMIT, I DID IT AGAIN.
ひそひそ…
EEK
get back to your classrooms
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

YOUU UUU!
HAHA HAH...
DO YOU LIKE MAKING A MESS OF THINGS ON FIRST DAY?
WELL, DO YOU?
HOW'D YOU GET THAT INJURY!?
SCHOOL LITERALLY JUST STARTED!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? WITH AN INJURY LIKE THAT YOU—
Y-YUUTA WE'RE STILL AT SCHOOL
CAN WE PLEASE DISCUSS THIS AT THE PARK?
HEY, KIMURA!
YUUTA, WHO'S THIS GUY?
OH!
NO, SHE'S NOT! SHE'S JUST A CLASSMATE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL
WHO IS SHE? YOUR GIRLFRIEND? SHE IS, ISN'T SHE?

I'M GLAD I GET TO MEET SOMEONE AS CUTE AS YOU!
I'M KIKUCHI HIKARU.
NICE TO MEET YOU!
IF YOU'D LIKE, WE COULD—
HEY... HI. I'M OOTSUKA
HE'S PRETTY ENERGETIC
HEY!
YOU'RE THE GIRL WHO WAS WEARING THOSE LIGHT BLUE PANTIES!

WHA—
LIGHT BLUE... PANTIES?
ヒクッ
TO THINK WE WOULD MEET AGAIN, HERE.
スッ
キラ
キラ
THIS MUST BE FATE.

INSTANT REPLY
WHAT A CREEP.
ひゃ
I'M GONNA CHEW YOU OUT FOR THIS AFTER SCHOOL
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT PANTIES?
see ya
ALRIGHT, WELL, I NEED TO GO BUY MY LUNCH SO I'LL BE LEAVING NOW.
UMM, SHE'S NOT REALLY A BAD PERSON SHE'S JUST HONEST TO A FAULT, I GUESS
S-SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BAD BY IT, I'M SURE!

AND MAKE A REALLY GOOD SONG.
IT'S OK... I FEEL LIKE I CAN USE THESE FEELINGS
WOW, THIS GUY IS REALLY WEIRD
I SEE...
I REALLY SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY TEMPER.
いてて
MAAAN...
ガラッ
I GUESS I'M NOT MATURE ENOUGH YET
I TRULY WANTED TO DO THINGS RIGHT THIS TIME
BUT WHEN THAT SHOE HIT ME, I JUST SNAPPED.

ざわっ
AH...
HEY ISN'T SHE THE ONE WHO HEADBUTTED...
ヒソ ヒソ
UGH
FIGURES...
LOOKS LIKE I'VE MESSED UP ALREADY. GUESS I'LL TRY TO LAY LOW FOR A BIT
ガタッ
カサ
あーん
U-UMM...
WANT TO EAT TOGETHER WITH US?

HUH? SURE
OH, CAN I JOIN TOO?
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE IN OUR CLASS. EHEHE...
OF COURSE, FEEL FREE.
UMM, I'M HAPPY YOU WANT TO EAT WITH ME, BUT WHY?
YOU ALL SAW WHAT I DID THIS MORNING, RIGHT?
I made a pretty big fool of myself didn't I?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY!? THOSE TWO SCARY GUYS WERE FIGHTING AND YOU JUST WENT AND BROKE THEM BOTH UP. IT WAS REALLY COOL!
YOU'RE A PRETTY INTERESTING PERSON YOU KNOW
YEAH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY AWESOME!
INTERESTING?
O-OK...

SO MY REPORT FOR THE FIRST DAY...
I WAS ONCE AGAIN BROUGHT FACE TO FACE WITH THE FACT THAT GUYS ARE STRANGE.
YOU'RE TELLING ME...
I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO BE SHUNNED, BUT IT TURNS OUT ALL THE GIRLS LIKE ME...
GIRLS ARE STRANGE
....
HIGH SCHOOL'S NOTHING LIKE MIDDLE SCHOOL, HUH.
TOTALLY.

Platinum
Light Blue...
doesn't realize he showed him yuri's panties when he fell over
SO YOU DEFINITELY DIDN'T SHOW ANYONE, RIGHT?
YEAH, AND I DON'T REMEMBER SOMEONE SNEAKING A PEEK AT THEM EITHER.
レば
SO WHAT'S THIS 'LIGHT BLUE PANTIES' HIKARU WAS TALKING ABOUT?
YOU DIDN'T SHOW SOME GUY MY PANTIES DID YOU!!?
A WOMAN'S UNDERWEAR IS IMPORTANT!
Platinum important!
THERE'S NO WAY I'D SHOW THEM TO PEOPLE SO EASILY!
ぎっぱり
REALLY?
I DIDN'T! I REALLY DIDN'T!
BESIDES, I WASN'T EVEN WEARING LIGHT BLUE PANTIES TODAY
HE PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS SOMEONE ELSE. I WAS WEARING STRIPED...?
MHM.
TRUE.
SO...
めくり。
IN OTHER WORDS, EVEN THOUGH HE HADN'T SEEN THEM, HE MANAGED TO GUESS RIGHT? IS HIKARU A PERVERT!?
KIKUCHI HIKARU: NOW LABELLED (INCORRECTLY) AS A PERVERT
OH. THEY WERE LIGHT BLUE
HOW THE HELL DID YOU FORGET THE COLOR OF YOUR OWN UNDERWEAR?

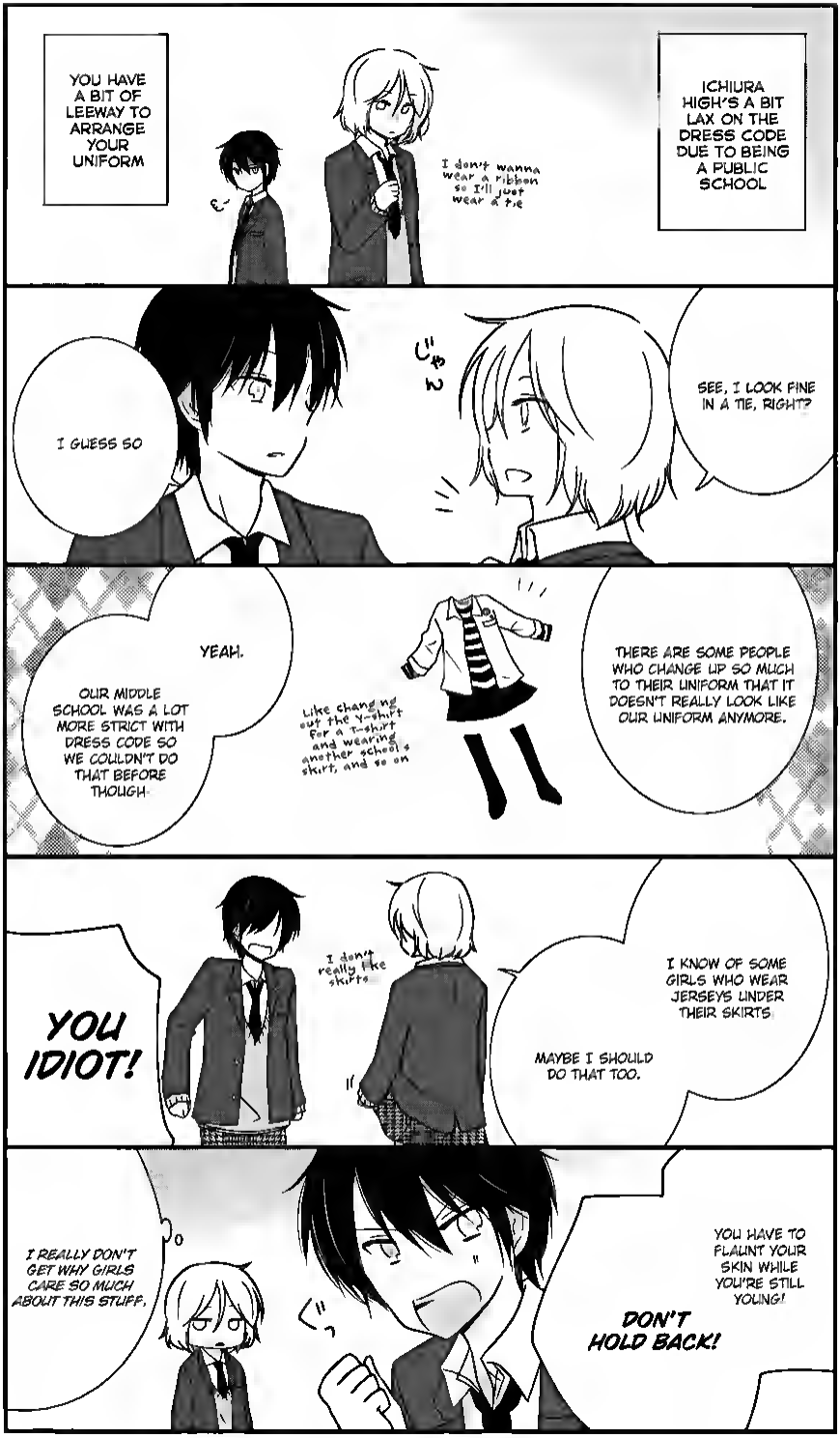
Extra
Change of
Uniform

AROUND THE TIME THEY GOT ACCEPTED TO HIGH SCHOOL

ふぁ～…
AHH... GOOD MORNING.
G'MORNING, YUUTA.
morning, Nii-chan
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?
MY HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM CAME IN SO I THOUGHT I'D COME SHOW YOU.
SO WHY ARE YOU EATING BREAKFAST HERE!?
what do you think?
STOP ACTING LIKE THIS IS YOUR HOUSE!
SHOULDN'T YOU EAT YOUR BREAKFAST NII-CHAN?
YUI-CHAN, WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE ONCE YOU'RE DONE EATING?
YES PLEASE~

S-SO WHAT DO YOU THINK YUI?
HMMM...
ABSOLUTELY TERRIBLE.
THE LENGTH OF YOUR SKIRT NEEDS TO BE SHORT ENOUGH TO SHOW OFF YOUR LEGS,
BUT ALSO LONG ENOUGH SO IT DOESN'T LOOK TOO SLUTTY!
Shorten it by a few millimeters!
ピッ
WHA— IT'S STILL NO GOOD?
SKIRT LENGTH IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YUI

ARRANGING ONE'S UNIFORM


YOU HAVE A BIT OF LEEWAY TO ARRANGE YOUR UNIFORM
I don't wanna wear a ribbon so I'll just wear a tie
ICHIURA HIGH'S A BIT LAX ON THE DRESS CODE DUE TO BEING A PUBLIC SCHOOL
じゃ
SEE, I LOOK FINE IN A TIE, RIGHT?
I GUESS SO
YEAH.
OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL WAS A LOT MORE STRICT WITH DRESS CODE SO WE COULDN'T DO THAT BEFORE THOUGH.
Like changing out the V-shirt for a T-shirt and wearing another school's skirt, and so on
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO CHANGE UP SO MUCH TO THEIR UNIFORM THAT IT DOESN'T REALLY LOOK LIKE OUR UNIFORM ANYMORE.
YOU IDIOT!
I don't really like skirts
I KNOW OF SOME GIRLS WHO WEAR JERSEYS UNDER THEIR SKIRTS.
MAYBE I SHOULD DO THAT TOO.
I REALLY DON'T GET WHY GIRLS CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THIS STUFF.
YOU HAVE TO FLAUNT YOUR SKIN WHILE YOU'RE STILL YOUNG!
DON'T HOLD BACK!

YEAH.
UNLIKE MIDDLE SCHOOL, OUR UNIFORM IS A BLAZER THIS TIME
BOTH GUYS AND GIRLS HAVE THE SAME TOP
CAN'T HURT TO ASK.
HEY, LET ME TRY ON YOUR SKIRT JUST THIS ONCE
NO WAY!
NOT THIS AGAIN
So persistent
THERE'S NO WAY THE SKIRT'S GOING TO LOOK GOOD ON YOU WHILE YOU STILL HAVE A GUY'S FACE. JUST GIVE UP!
PLEAAASE? I WANT TO LOOK LIKE I'M SUPPOSED TO AT LEAST ONCE!
YOU'RE ACTUALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS?
Just for this moment!
DON'T WORRY!
I MADE SURE TO BUY A WIG AND MAKEUP!

SHE TRIED WEARING A SKIRT

キラ
ツー
キラ
YAY! NOW I'M AN ACTUAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRL!
....
IT LOOKS REALLY GOOD ON ME!
IT REALLY DOES!
M-MAYBE
I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SMILE LIKE THAT BEFORE I SHOULD JUST AGREE WITH HER FOR NOW
HEY, HEY. DO YOU THINK EVERYONE WOULD THINK I'M A GIRL IF I WENT OUT LIKE THIS?
NII-CHAN, CAN I COME IN?
コンコン
Let's play!
DON'T TELL HER!
HEY MOOOOM.
N-NO WE'RE NO— WELL, I GUESS WE ARE BUT
ARE YOU DOING SOMETHING BAD RIGHT NOW?
AHH! WAIT A MINUTE HARUKI!

SHISYUNKI

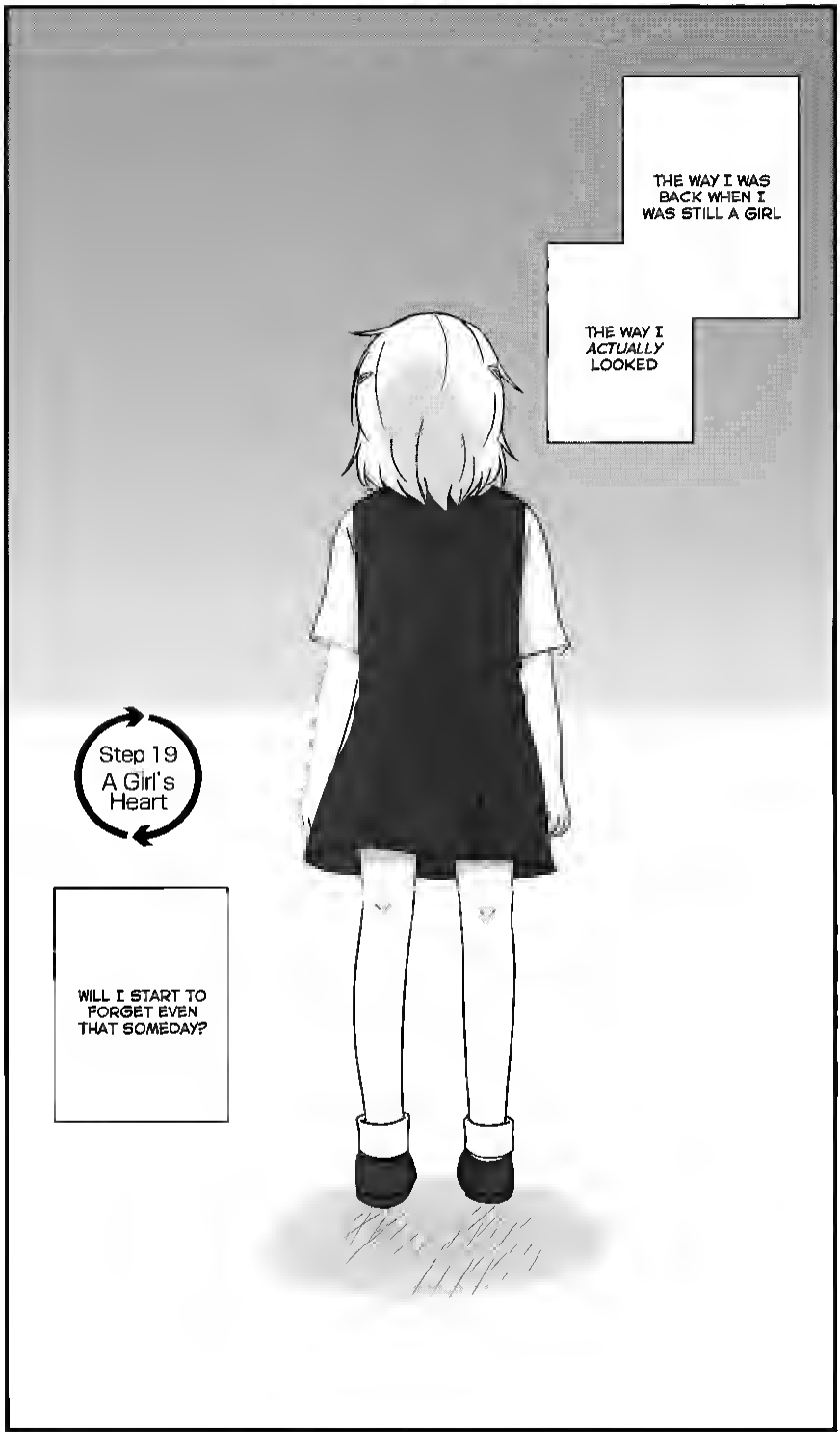
BITTER CHANGE

POLARIS COMICS / MASAYOSHI

WHAT DO I DO? I'VE FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE I LOVE.
DON'T CRY.
3
SHISYUNKI BITTER CHANGE
POLARIS COMICS

gospel.みんな

「ネットの中の教会」


THE WAY I WAS BACK WHEN I WAS STILL A GIRL
THE WAY I *ACTUALLY* LOOKED
Step 19
A Girl's Heart
WILL I START TO FORGET EVEN THAT SOMEDAY?

oh, really?
Yeah!
YUUTA!

I CAN ONLY PLAY THE GUITAR THOUGH.
NOW I JUST NEED TO PERFECT THIS SONG ON MY COMPUTER.
IT'S REALLY COOL HOW YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN MUSIC.
I THOUGHT IT WAS PRETTY GOOD.
WHAT DID YOU THINK OF MY NEW SONG?
I've only got the music done so far
SOUNDS NICE.
むー
NOT THAT I GET WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.
I DID THE RECORDING AT HOME, SO I COULDN'T BE TOO LOUD.
I WANT TO SAVE UP ENOUGH MONEY TO GET A STUDIO OF MY OWN
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED MUSIC!
I WAS EVEN IN THE LIGHT MUSIC CLUB BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
And I finally managed to save up enough money to buy this too
I KNEW YOU LIKED MUSIC HIKARU, BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU.
ONE DAY I'D LIKE TO PLAY ON A LIVE STAGE.
EVEN IF IT'S A TINY PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, IT'S MY DREAM TO SHARE MY MUSIC WITH OTHER PEOPLE

WOW—
THAT'S PRETTY ADMIRABLE.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUUTA?
DO YOU HAVE ANY DREAMS?
OR GOALS PERHAPS?
HMM... NOT REALLY.
I SEE.
WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.
MORNING YOU TWO.
G'MORNING KAZUMA!

Ehehe what do you th nk?
I plan to buy an acoustic guitar next.
IT'S REALLY CUTE. I THINK IT LOOKS GREAT ON YOU!
REALLY? THANK GOODNESS!
DREAMS, HUH...
School Store

OH, HEY YUUTA.
HEY, YUI.
YEAH, IT'S REALLY GOOD!
DO YOU ALWAYS JUST GET MELON BREAD FROM HERE?
AT LEAST LET ME EAT THE FOODS I LIKE!
ALL YOU EVER EAT IS SWEET BREADS
YOU SHOULD EAT SOMETHING HEALTHIER
ARE YOU OK WITH COFFEE?
YUUTA!

Ah.
トゼ
YOU'RE THAT PERVERT FROM BEFORE!
ゴズッ
C'MON, YUI
He's still my friend so could you at least not...
P-PERVERT?
I HEARD FROM YUUTA THAT YOU'RE A FUN GUY WHO REALLY LIKES MUSIC.
LET'S GET ALONG FROM NOW ON, HIKARU-KUN!
HAHA, JUST KIDDING!

SEE YOU AROUND.
WHA—
Did you get your bread, Yuiz
Yeah, I just barely managed to snag the last one!
LET'S GET ALONG
FUN GUY
HAHA YEAH
HIKARU'S A REALLY SIMPLE GUY.
she even said let's get along!
YUI-CHAN'S A NICE GIRL, ISN'T SHE?
I DON'T EVEN GREET MY OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSMATES ANYMORE.
YOU REALLY DO GET ALONG WELL WITH HER
BUT YOU KNOW,

SO, IS THERE REALLY NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO?
Tell me all about it!
THERE REALLY ISN'T...
SHE'S JUST ALWAYS GETTING HERSELF IN TROUBLE,
SO I JUST CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE, THAT'S ALL.
We're not really that close
HMMM.
IT'S NOT TECHNICALLY A LIE...
HIKARU.
HUH?
THE BUTTON ON YOUR SLEEVE LOOKS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO COME OFF.

IT'S NO BIG DEAL. DON'T WORRY.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU FIX IT, YUUTA.
You even had to borrow a sewing kit for me
NAH, MOST PEOPLE DON'T.
REALLY? I THOUGHT EVERYONE KNEW NOW.
I'M AMAZED YOU KNOW HOW TO SEW.
AH WELL.
MOST GUYS WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO DO THIS WOULD THEY.
I-I JUST FIX THEM UP FOR HIM WHENEVER OUR MOM'S NOT AROUND.
MY YOUNGER BROTHER IS A ADVENTUROUS KID SO HE'S ALWAYS RIPPING HIS CLOTHES ALL OVER THE PLACE.
OHH.
I SEE.

THANKS!
THERE, I'M DONE
HEY, KIMURA-KUN, YOU KNOW TAKAOKA-KUN RIGHT?
UH, KAZUMA GOT CALLED IN BY THE TEACHER SO HE'S IN THE STAFF ROOM RIGHT NOW
OH, ALRIGHT THEN
thanks
AH...
THAT KIND OF LONG HAIR IS REALLY PRETTY
I'M JEALOUS OF HOW GOOD IT LOOKS ON HER
YUUTA HATES LETTING HIS HAIR GROW OUT

HEY, WAS THAT GIRL JUST NOW YOUR TYPE, YUUTA?
HUH?
YOU WERE STARING PRETTY HARD AT HER
....
I SEE, SO YOU LIKE MORE MATURE WOMEN, HUH
I GET IT. YOU LIKE THE KINDS OF GIRLS THAT WOULD MAKE GOOD WIVES!
HAHA
THAT'S NOT IT, I JUST
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO EMBARRASSED.
BUT IT'S REALLY NOT
EVERY GUY HAS THEIR OWN TASTES AFTER ALL!
THA—
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!

しーん…
CRAP.
S-SORRY FOR YELLING AT YOU
IT'S JUST THAT'S REALLY NOT WHY I WAS STARING, OK?
しょぼん
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY.
I GUESS I WENT A BIT TOO FAR
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HIKARU.
カタッ
I-I'M GOING TO GO BRING THIS BACK TO THE STAFF ROOM

I...
WHAT IF HE THINKS I'M WEIRD?
I WONDER IF THAT WAS REALLY OK SAYING ALL THAT-
I MEAN...
IT SHOULD BE FINE
THEN AGAIN,
IT'S NOT LIKE HE KNOWS WHAT YUUTA OR I WERE LIKE BEFORE.
COME TO THINK OF IT...

WAS I REALLY STARING AT HER THAT MUCH?
I'M NOT REALLY...
INTO GIRLS...
AFTER ALL...
UGH, I NEED TO BE MORE CAREFUL.
OR ELSE I'LL LET SOMETHING BAD SLIP BY ACCIDENT

BUT
I CAN'T HELP IT
AFTER ALL
I ALWAYS WANTED TO GROW UP INTO A BEAUTIFUL GIRL
I ALWAYS ADMIRED PEOPLE LIKE THAT
AND WISHED I COULD BECOME ONE

EXCEPT
AS TIME GOES ON
IT SEEMS LIKE EVEN THOSE FEELINGS
ARE SLOWLY MOVING FAR BEYOND MY REACH

WILL I EVENTUALLY LOSE THE "ME" FROM BEFORE?
サワッ
OH RIGHT, I NEED TO GET BACK TO THE CLASSROOM.
YUUTA!

THERE HE IS! WE WERE LOOKING FOR YOU!
OH... IT'S YOU TWO. WHAT'S UP?
I SAID SOME THINGS THAT I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID.
SORRY ABOUT EARLIER.
NO, IT'S MY FAULT. I'M SORRY.
REALLY? WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, BUT—
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON!
NO, NO, IT WAS COMPLETELY MY FAULT SO PLEASE DON'T, HIKARU.
COME ON LET'S GO BACK.
WHEN I CAME BACK TO THE CLASSROOM EARLIER, HIKARU CAME RUNNING TO ME ALL PANICKED.
Ahh, thank goodness

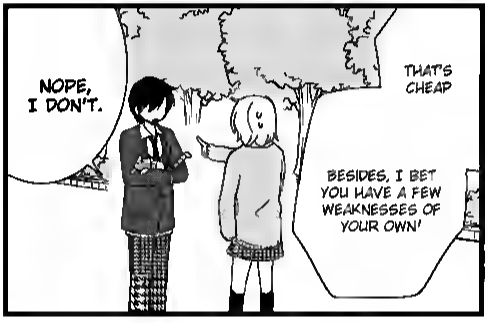
うわぁぁぁ
うぷっ
NO, I BET HE HATES ME NOW!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE THINGS UP TO HIM!?
HE MUST BE SO MAD AT ME RIGHT NOW!
WHAT DO I DO KAZUMA? I DID SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO YUUTA!
HAHA. YEAH.
SO I THOUGHT SOMETHING REALLY SERIOUS MUST HAVE HAPPENED.
THE ONLY PERSON YOU EVER REALLY GET MAD AT IS YUUTA.
IF SOMETHING'S TROUBLING YOU, YOU CAN ALWAYS COME TO ME YOU KNOW?
HURRY UP YOU TWO!
THANKS...

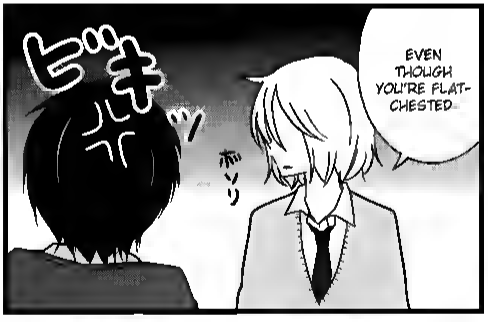
SHISYUNKI

BITTER CHANGE

POLARIS COMICS / MASAYOSHI

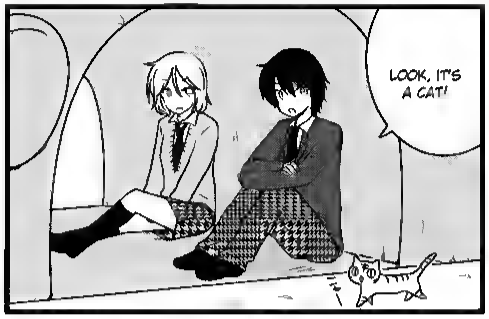
Weakness

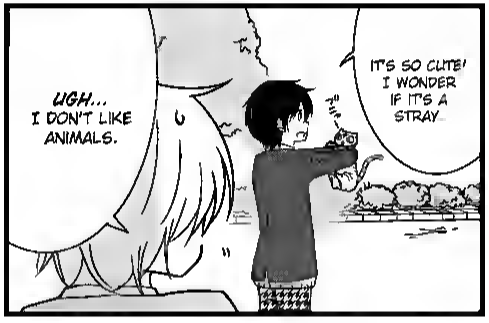




AND YOU USED ALL OF YOUR ALLOWANCE TO BUY THESE SHADY MASSAGE TOOLS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE YOUR BOOBS BIGGER
AND SO WORRIED WITH HOW FLAT YOU ARE SO YOU PAD YOUR BRA
WAAH!
SORRY, I WON'T TEASE YOU ANYMORE SO STOP!

Cat at the Park





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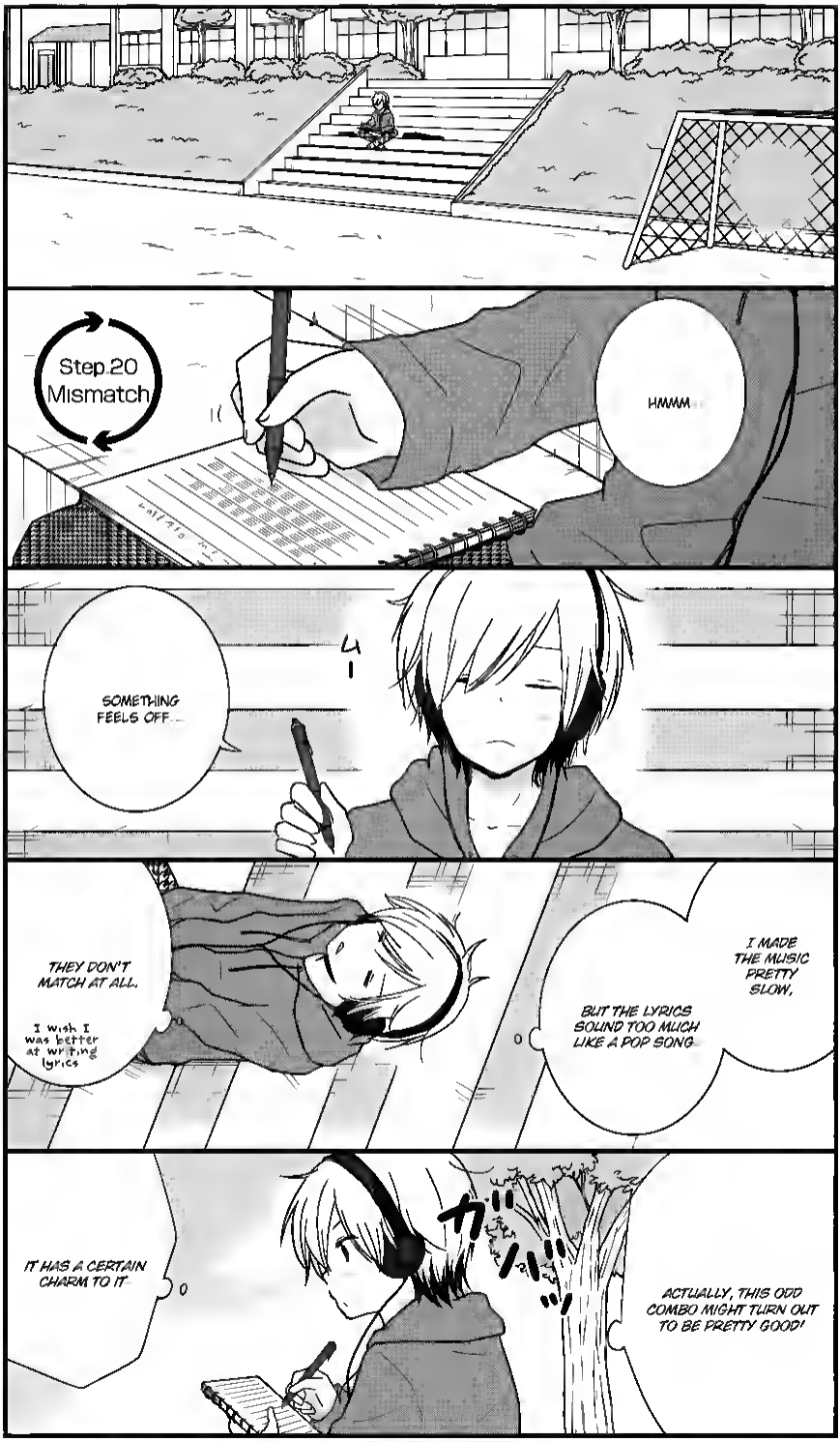

Step.20
Mismatch
HMMM
SOMETHING FEELS OFF...
I MADE THE MUSIC PRETTY SLOW,
BUT THE LYRICS SOUND TOO MUCH LIKE A POP SONG...
THEY DON'T MATCH AT ALL.
I wish I was better at writing lyrics
IT HAS A CERTAIN CHARM TO IT
ACTUALLY, THIS ODD COMBO MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE PRETTY GOOD!

HUH?
サワッ
KIMURA...
1－1
KIMURA-KUN!
HM?

IS THIS YOU?
IS THAT MY MIDDLE SCHOOL'S GRADUATION ALBUM?
OHH, SO THAT IS YOU THEN. YEAH, I BORROWED IT FROM A FRIEND.
LOOKING AT GRADUATION ALBUMS HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF A FAD RECENTLY.
I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT LOOKING AT OLD GRADUATION ALBUMS.
THAT'S WHAT PEOPLE ARE INTO THESE DAYS?
Hey, let me see!
Look! It's Takaoka-kun
YEAH, BUT IF PEOPLE SAW THAT THEN—
I MANAGED TO BORROW IT!
MIGHT BE A BIT NOSTALGIC TO SEE MY OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALBUM THOUGH.
KAMIURAWA ELEMENTARY'S GRADUATION ALBUM!
A friend from the next class over had it
輝

UH OH.
THAT'S OUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ISN'T IT?
YOU TWO WENT TO KAMIURAWA?
Y-YEAH. WE'VE BEEN IN THE SAME SCHOOL SINCE KINDERGARTEN
SO YOU TWO ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS?
Cool!
I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF GOING BACK TO LOOK AT IT, SO I HAVEN'T SEEN MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALBUM
I DON'T REALLY WANT OTHERS TO LOOK AT IT EITHER BUT...
ドキ
ドキ
AT LEAST...
I have cram school with that girl!
I know someone here, too
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
THEY'RE NOT LOOKING TOO DEEPLY INTO THINGS
ホッ

EVERYONE'S LOOKING AT OLD GRADUATION ALBUMS.
IT SEEMS TO BE THE "IN" THING TO DO RIGHT NOW.
OH! DOES THAT INCLUDE YOU TWO'S OLD SCHOOL'S ALBUM TOO?
LET ME SEE~
SURE.
U-UM—
WAIT... ACTUALLY TELLING HIM TO STOP WOULD BE REALLY WEIRD.
what should I do?
SHOULD BE FINE SINCE IT'S HIKARU.
ペラッ
Class 6–1
FOUND YOU YUUTA!
I FOUND YUI-CHAN TOO!
Ootsuka Yui

ハラハラ
OHH.
YOU TWO HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED MUCH.
Athletic Meet
パラ
Soccer Club
パラ

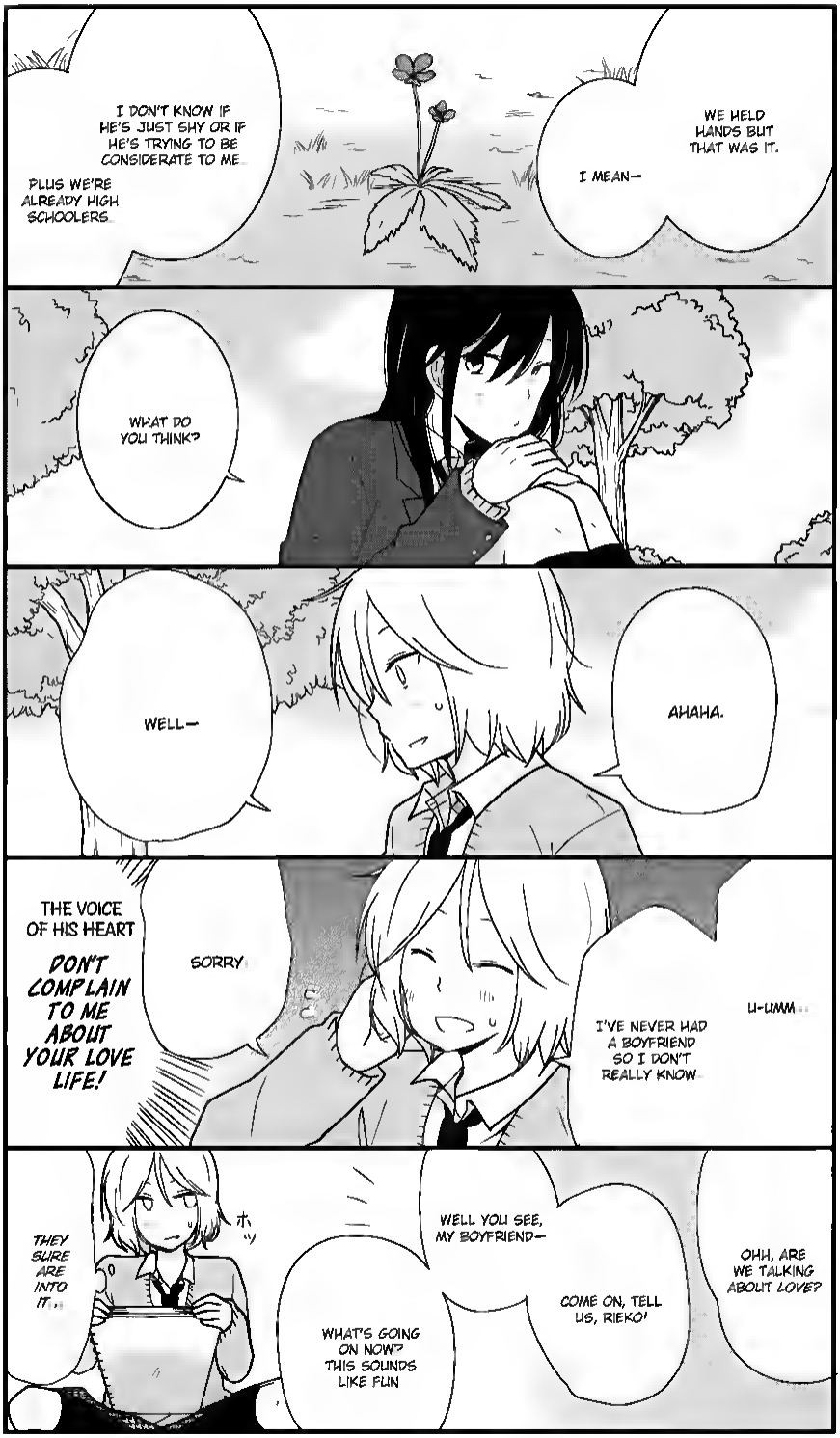
....
W-WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
ギク
OH NO.
ALRIGHT
I THINK THAT'S ENOUGH
ひよーっ
CLASS IS ABOUT TO START
THAT WAS FROM BEFORE WE SWITCHED PLACES...
Thank you
ビキビキ

WE—
WELL...
YOU WERE A PRETTY NAUGHTY KID WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE, HUH, YUUTA.
YEAH, HE WAS ALWAYS THE ONE MAKING JOKES AND STUFF IN CLASS BACK THEN
THE TEACHER WOULD GET MAD AT HIM A LOT.
BUT HE'S MATURED A BIT NOW SO—
I SEE...
I'M NOT A KID ANYMORE.
I CAN'T ALWAYS BE GOING AROUND ACTING LIKE ONE.
oh yeah
We have to switch classrooms for our next class

HUH...
SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL QUITE RIGHT
THAT SONG..
..WAS A MISMATCH
AND...
YUUTA IS—

AH
WHAT'S WRONG AYANE?
HAH...
YOU'VE BEEN SIGHING A LOT TODAY
WOW!
YOU'RE REALLY GOOD, YU!

WELL YOU SEE...
すごい
IT'S BEEN ABOUT TWO MONTHS SINCE I STARTED GOING OUT WITH MY BOYFRIEND,
BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T EVEN KISSED
AH! ARE YOU OK?
YOUR DRAWING WAS TURNING OUT SO WELL TOO
CRAP. UH, DON'T WORRY I'LL FIX IT SOMEHOW.
MORE IMPORTANTLY...
Y-YOU...
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND, AYANE.
YEAH, WE'VE BEEN DATING SINCE MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WE WENT ON A DATE JUST THE OTHER DAY TOO.

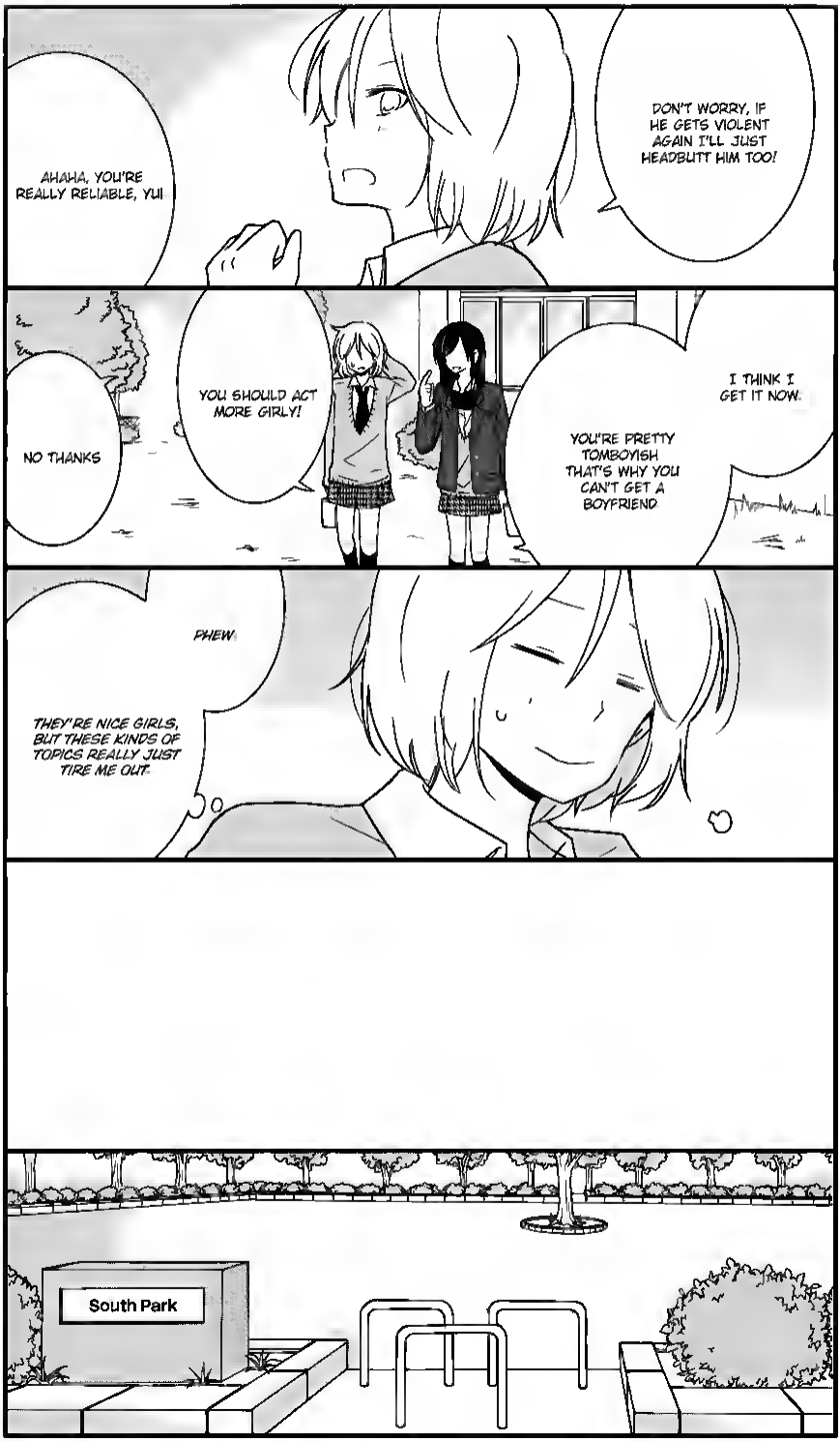

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S JUST SHY OR IF HE'S TRYING TO BE CONSIDERATE TO ME
PLUS WE'RE ALREADY HIGH SCHOOLERS
I MEAN—
WE HELD HANDS BUT THAT WAS IT.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL—
AHAHA.
THE VOICE OF HIS HEART
DON'T COMPLAIN TO ME ABOUT YOUR LOVE LIFE!
SORRY
I'VE NEVER HAD A BOYFRIEND SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW
U-UMM
THEY SURE ARE INTO IT
WELL YOU SEE, MY BOYFRIEND—
WHAT'S GOING ON NOW? THIS SOUNDS LIKE FUN
COME ON, TELL US, RIEKO!
OHH, ARE WE TALKING ABOUT LOVE?

MAN, I DON'T EVEN KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS.
ESPECIALLY NOT WHAT GIRLS THINK OF IT.
NO ONE CARED ABOUT THIS STUFF BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.
HEY YUI, IS THERE ANYONE YOU LIKE?
ピクッ
WE'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT THIS?
HAHA, NOPE!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD GET A BOYFRIEND ANYWAY.
WHY? YOU'RE PRETTY CUTE I BET YOU COULD IF YOU REALLY TRIED!
YEAH, BUT I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY INTENTION TO.
YOU KNOW, I HAVE A CRUSH ON THIS GUY AT MY JOB—
THAT'S NICE. I WISH I COULD HAVE A FATED MEETING WITH MY DESTINED GUY!
I'M SO DONE WITH THIS!
I WISH I COULD JUST RUN AWAY!
BUT YUI—
ガーガー

YOU MEAN KIMURA?
DON'T YOU KNOW THE GUY WITH THE TOP SCORES IN OUR CLASS, TAKAOKA-KUN?
AND THERE'S ONE OTHER GUY YOU KNOW FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
I SEE YOU TALKING TO BOTH OF THEM SOMETIMES.
I'M JEALOUS!
THOSE TWO ARE PRETTY POPULAR YOU KNOW. THEY'RE COOL GUYS.
ESPECIALLY TAKAOKA-KUN! I TALKED TO HIM ONCE.
HUH, WHEN!?
COOL? THOSE TWO?
OH, FINALLY TOOK THE BAIT, HUH?
HMM. LET'S SEE...
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT HIM? HIS LOOKS?
SO WHAT ABOUT KIMURA?
DOESN'T HE GIVE OFF THAT 'HERBIVORE' KIND OF VIBE?
I GUESS HE IS KINDA CUTE

COME TO THINK OF IT—
HAHAHA, A HERBIVORE HUH.
WELL THAT'S BECAUSE HE'S ACTUALLY A GIRL.
HUH?
MAYBE HE LIKES YOU?
SAITOU-KUN, FROM OUR CLASS, LOOKS LIKE HE'S PRETTY INTERESTED IN YOU YUI.
OH, HIM!
THE GUY SITTING OVER THERE.
SAITOU?
GON!!
I THINK HE'S JUST SCARED OF ME.
HE'S THE GUY I HEADBUTTED BACK DURING THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY.
EVERYTIME WE RUN INTO EACH OTHER HE ALWAYS RUNS AWAY!
AHAHA. I SEE!

ジャー
SPEAKING OF THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY...
THE OTHER GUY WHO WAS IN THAT FIGHT GOT SUSPENDED, RIGHT?
SINCE HE STARTED IT
IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE THEN THOUGH.
HIS SUSPENSION SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIFTED BY NOW...
ジャ
REALLY?
AHA...
I DON'T THINK SO.
ドキッ
YOU THINK HE'S TOO SCARED OF YOU TO COME TO SCHOOL, YUI?
HE KIND OF STRIKES ME AS A DELINQUENT.
IT'S PROBABLY BETTER THAT HE DOESN'T COME ANYWAY. I'M SCARED HE'D JUST START ANOTHER FIGHT IF HE DID.

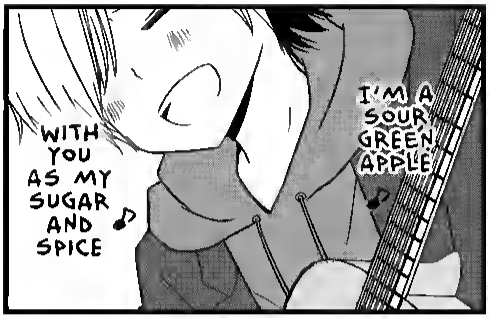

AHAHA, YOU'RE REALLY RELIABLE, YUI
DON'T WORRY, IF HE GETS VIOLENT AGAIN I'LL JUST HEADBUTT HIM TOO!
NO THANKS
YOU SHOULD ACT MORE GIRLY!
YOU'RE PRETTY TOMBOYISH THAT'S WHY YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND
I THINK I GET IT NOW.
PHEW.
THEY'RE NICE GIRLS, BUT THESE KINDS OF TOPICS REALLY JUST TIRE ME OUT.
South Park

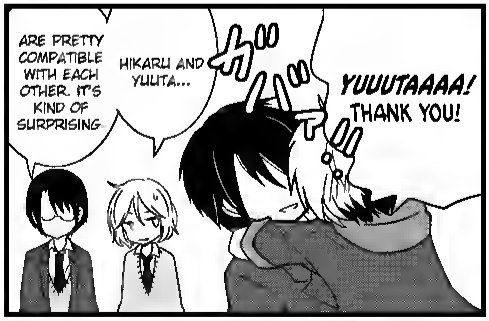
ANYTHING NEW TO REPORT TODAY?
LET'S SEE...
NOT SURE WHY, BUT MY CLASSMATES HAVE CREATED A PLAN TO INCREASE MY GIRLISHNESS
THAT'S A GOOD THING.
LIKE HELL IT IS!
HEY, WAS YOUR CLASS LOOKING AT GRADUATION ALBUMS TOO?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ONE OF THE GIRLS IN MY CLASS BROUGHT OUR OLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GRADUATION ALBUM OVER TODAY.
DOESN'T THAT HAVE PICTURES FROM BEFORE WE SWITCHED PLACES?
WHAT A SCARY FAD, AT LEAST FOR US
I'm glad my class wasn't doing it too
I DON'T THINK ANYONE WOULD BE ABLE TO FIGURE ANYTHING OUT JUST BY LOOKING AT IT THOUGH
BUT HIKARU SAW ONE OF OUR PICTURES BEFORE WE SWAPPED.
HE SAW YOU PLAYING SOCCER AND TOLD ME I USED TO BE A PRETTY NAUGHTY GUY, SO I STARTED PANICKING.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE SEEN THOSE PICTURES.
I DIDN'T REALLY ENJOY SEEING THEM...
SEEING HOW I WAS ORIGINALLY
WAS A BIT PAINFUL

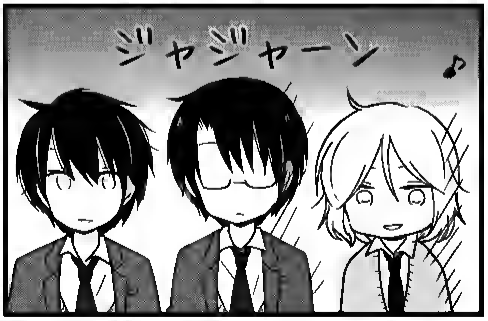
WELL, I GUESS YOU'RE ONE OF THOSE.
SO I FIGURED YOU'D SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
WHY?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO LOOK LIKE IT'S THE PROOF THAT WE REALLY DID EXIST LIKE THAT BEFORE.
....
I'M ONE OF WHAT?
AN IDIOT.
ヒギ
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN IDIOT.
YOU DON'T NEED TO SAY IT TWICE!

Thoughts

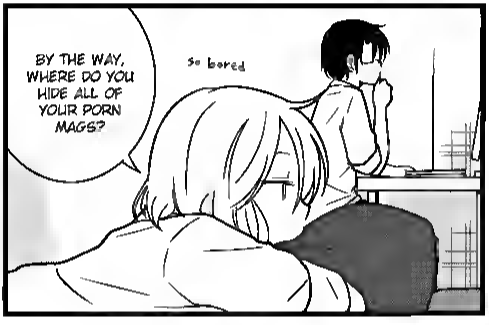


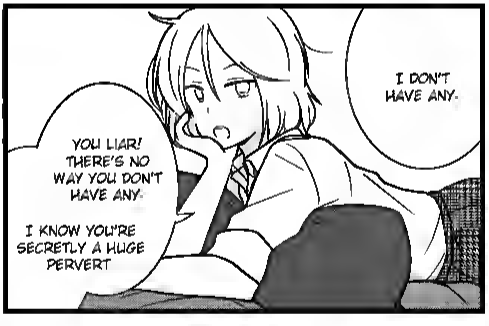


Hikaru's Song



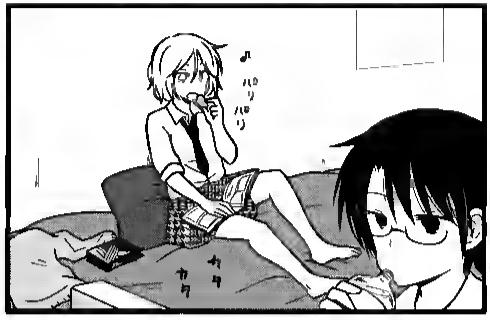
The Basis of Pornography

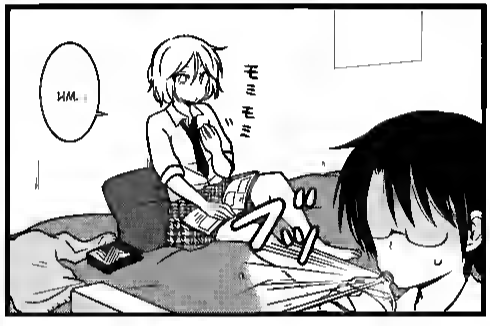




I DON'T HAVE ANY HIDDEN IN TODAY'S AGE YOU CAN SEE ALL THAT ON THE INTERNET AND YOU DON'T EVEN LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE BEHIND
WITH COMPUTERS, YOU CAN HIDE THINGS WITH HIDDEN FOLDERS EASILY, THERE'S NO REASON NOT TO USE THEM.
カタカタ
That's just normal now
SOMETIMES HE SCARES ME...

At Kazuma's House





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「ネットの中の教会」

Step 21
Tachibana Hayato
ALRIGHT. SO THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW
WE'LL BE DECIDING WHAT EVENTS WE'RE ALL DOING FOR NEXT WEEK'S SPORTS MEET.
PLEASE WRITE DOWN ON THIS SHEET WHICH EVENTS YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN.
I'LL BE PASSING THEM OUT NOW
だ
だ
だ

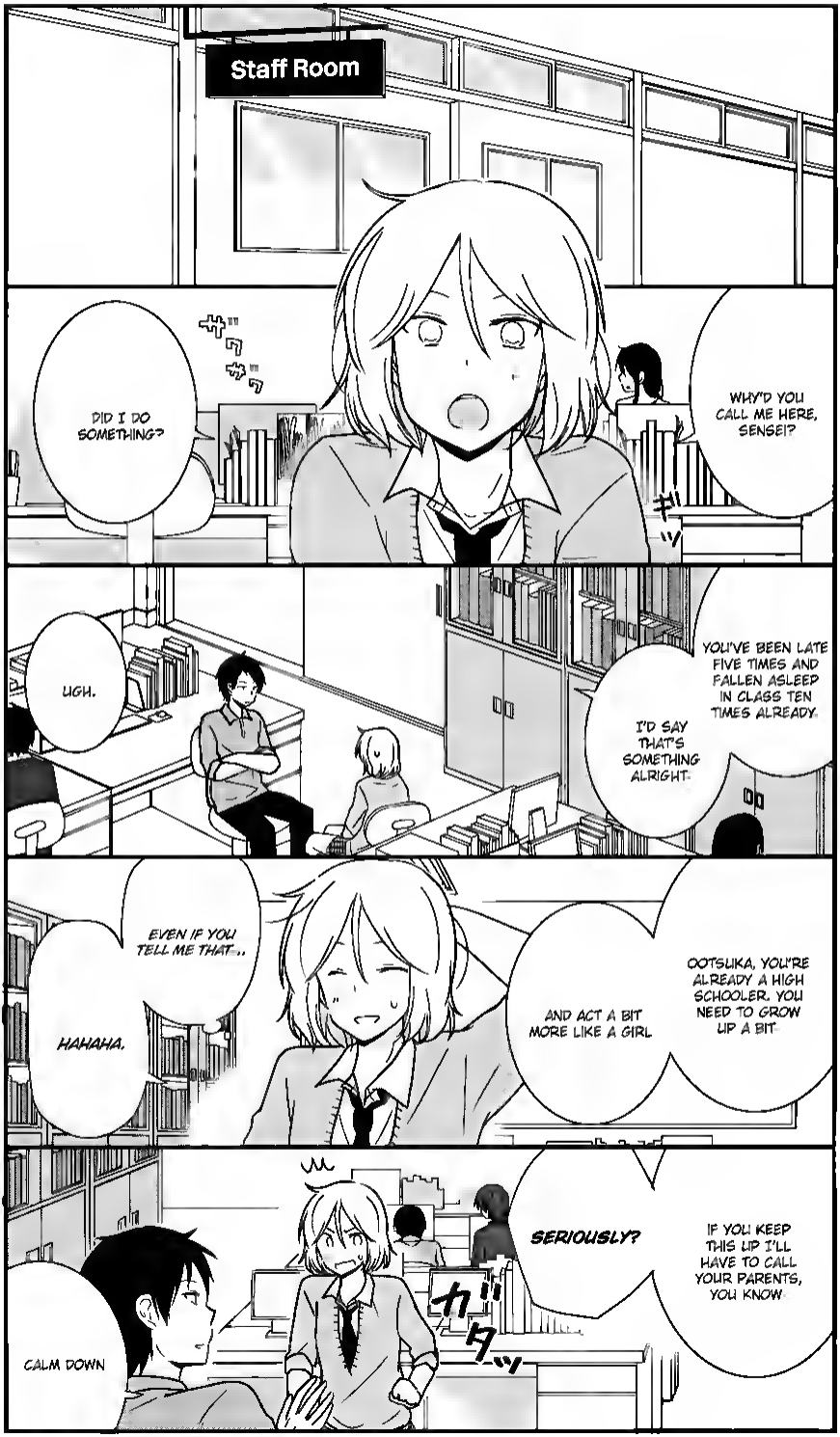
NOPE. YOU'RE LATE
you do this every time
t" t"
I-I MADE IT
I'M ON TIME!
IF YOU'RE LATE, YOU'RE LATE.
HERE, PASS THESE OUT FOR ME AS PUNISHMENT.
WHAAAT!?
IT DOESN'T COUNT? BUT WHY? I TRIED SO HARD TO MAKE IT ON TIME!
dammit I even tried to make it on time
MAKE SURE YOU TURN THESE IN TO YOUR P.E. REPRESENTATIVE BY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
THAT IS ALL!
ペラ…
カタッ
HEY.

I NEED ONE TOO.
HERE YOU GO
OH, SORRY, DID I NOT PASS BACK ENOUGH?
HM?

COME TO THINK OF IT, WASN'T THE DESK NEXT TO ME ALWAYS EMPTY?
HIS SUSPENSION SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIFTED BY NOW.
THE OTHER GUY WHO WAS IN THAT FIGHT GOT SUSPENDED, RIGHT?
I THINK HIS NAME WAS TACHIBANA...? I DIDN'T THINK HE'D COME TO SCHOOL.
OH RIGHT.
HE'S THE ONE WHO STARTED THAT FIGHT ON THE FIRST DAY.
ALTHOUGH...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I ACTUALLY GOT A GOOD LOOK AT HIS FACE.

YO TACHIBANA. DECIDED TO SHOW YOUR FACE TODAY, I SEE.
DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME BACK HERE EVER AGAIN
SO WHY'D YOU COME TO SCHOOL?
Why are you so quiet?
come on say something!
HMPH
GOT TOLD OFF BY YOUR MOM FOR FIGHTING OR SOMETHING?
Ahaha!

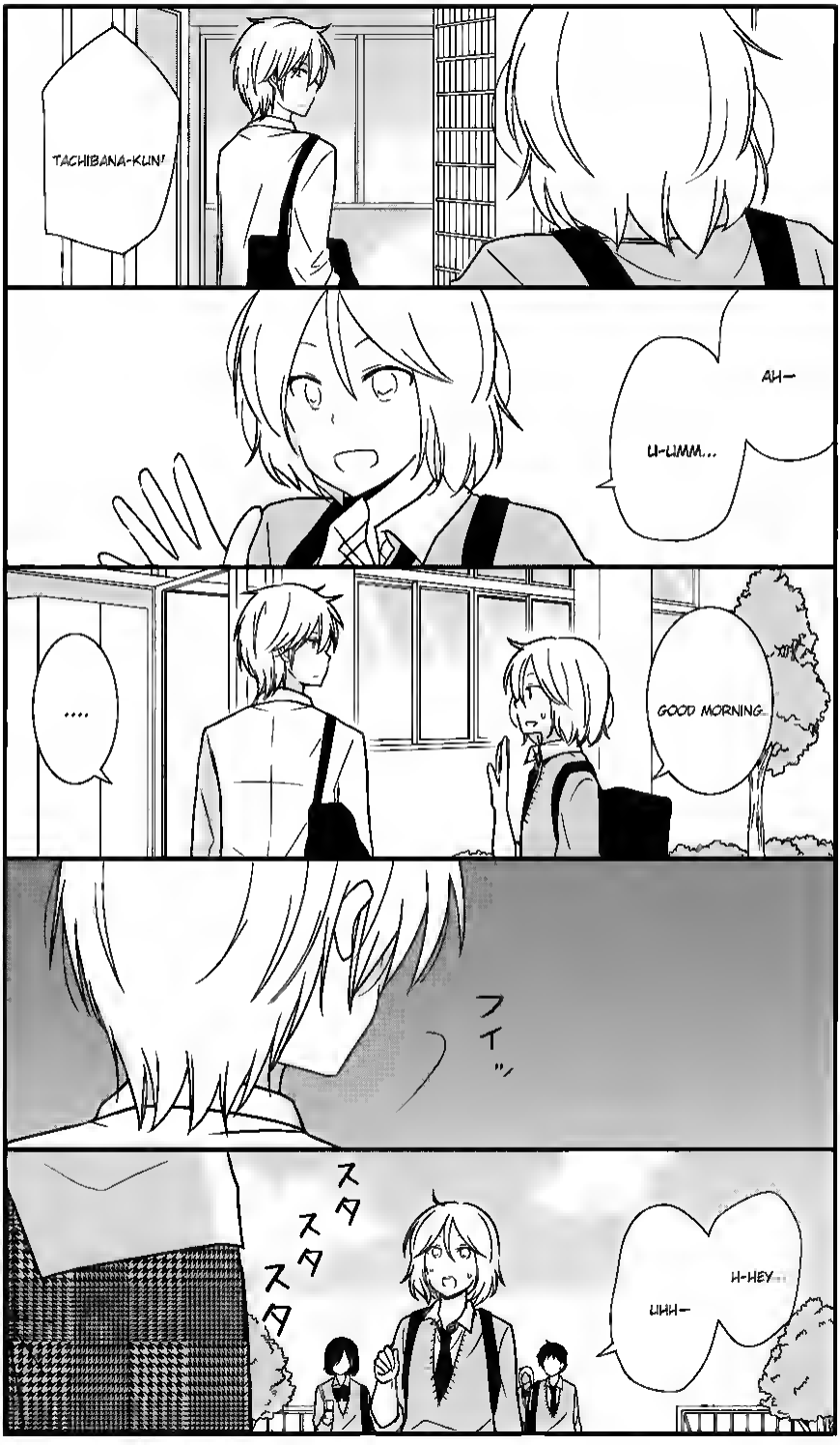
ガタッ
W-WHAT IS IT? YOU WANNA GO?
....
TCH!
ざわ
ざわ
WHAT'S WITH HIM?


Staff Room
WHY'D YOU CALL ME HERE, SENSEI?
ギッ
DID I DO SOMETHING?
カﾞﾗｶﾞﾗ
YOU'VE BEEN LATE FIVE TIMES AND FALLEN ASLEEP IN CLASS TEN TIMES ALREADY.
I'D SAY THAT'S SOMETHING ALRIGHT.
UGH.
OOTSUKA, YOU'RE ALREADY A HIGH SCHOOLER. YOU NEED TO GROW UP A BIT
AND ACT A BIT MORE LIKE A GIRL
EVEN IF YOU TELL ME THAT...
HAHAHA.
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP I'LL HAVE TO CALL YOUR PARENTS, YOU KNOW.
SERIOUSLY?
カﾞﾀｯ
CALM DOWN

THERE'S ACTUALLY A FAVOR I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU
A FAVOR?
YOU KNOW THE GUY WHO SITS NEXT TO YOU? TACHIBANA HAYATO?
HE'S THE GUY WHO GOT INTO A FIGHT ON THE FIRST DAY. THE ONE YOU STOPPED
YEAH, I KNOW HIM.
IT'S A RATHER SENSITIVE SITUATION EVEN THOUGH I KEPT ASKING HIM TO COME TO SCHOOL, HE WOULDN'T.
AND WHILE I FINALLY GOT HIM TO COME TO SCHOOL TODAY.
IT SEEMS LIKE THE REST OF THE CLASS DOESN'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO DEAL WITH HIM.
THE GIRLS ARE ALL SCARED OF HIM TOO.
IF HE KEEPS ON BEING SHUNNED LIKE THIS I'M WORRIED HE'LL JUST STOP COMING TO SCHOOL AGAIN.
HE HAS A LOT GOING ON TOO IT SEEMS
AS HIS TEACHER I'D AT LEAST LIKE HIM TO GET ALONG WITH HIS CLASSMATES.
SO BASICALLY WHAT I WANT FROM YOU IS—

SINCE YOU'RE GOOD AT THESE SORTS OF THINGS I'D LIKE YOU TO—
GOT IT!
YOU WANT ME TO HELP TACHIBANA GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE, RIGHT?
PIECE OF CAKE.
IT WOULD BE A HUGE HELP
I'LL LET YOU GET AWAY WITH JUST AN ESSAY ABOUT YOUR TARDINESS IF YOU SUCCEED.
REALLY!?
ALRIGHT! I'LL BE FORGIVEN FOR BEING LATE!
YOU'RE A SOCIABLE GIRL WITH A LOT OF FRIENDS.
IT ALSO SEEMS LIKE YOU CAN'T IGNORE PEOPLE IN TROUBLE.
I MEAN, I DO FEEL KIND OF BAD ABOUT MAKING A GIRL DO THIS BUT WELL—
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
LEAVE IT TO ME!

I MANAGED TO AVOID BEING LATE TODAY.
OH! I KNOW THAT HAIR COLOR
IT'S TACHIBANA! HERE'S MY CHANCE!


TACHIBANA-KUN!
AH—
U-UMM...
....
GOOD MORNING
フイッ
スタスタスタ
H-HEY...
UHH—

HE'S IGNORING ME..
MAYBE HE'S STILL MAD AT ME ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ON THE FIRST DAY
HMM..
MORNING YUI-CHAN, WHAT'S UP?
MORNING, RIEKO.
NOTHING REALLY.
OH YEAH, WE NEED TO TURN IN OUR EVENT LIST FOR THE SPORTS MEET.
DO YOU HAVE YOURS?
CRAP, I ALMOST FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
THEY DON'T HAVE WOMEN'S SOCCER SO MAYBE I'LL DO BASKETBALL.
HEY, TACHIBANA-KUN CAME TO SCHOOL TODAY TOO, RIGHT?
YEAH, I SAW HIM EARLIER.

REALLY?
I'D LIKE HIM TO TURN IN HIS FORM TOO, BUT IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TALK TO HIM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
YOU WILL?
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THEN I'LL ASK HIM FOR YOU.
1 — 3
G'MORNING.
HEY, YUI

GOOD MORNING
TACHIBANA-KUN!
....
WHY DON'T WE LET BYGONES BE BYGONES
WE SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER AND ALL SO WE SHOULD TRY TO GET ALONG
ARE YOU STILL MAD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY?
HEY, I KNOW YOU WERE IGNORING ME BEFORE
ANYWAY, ABOUT THE SPORTS MEET THAT'S COMING UP—

SHUT THE FUCK UP.
STOP TALKING TO ME LIKE YOU KNOW ME.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU ANYWAY!?
U-UMM... OOTSUKA YUI?
ヒクッ
ガタッ
ガっ

YOU'RE FUCKING ANNOYING SO I'M GOING HOME.
STOP YOUR YAPPING YOU STUPID BITCH!
A-ARE YOU OK?
ANNOY-ING...
BITCH...
YAPPING...
THAT... BASTARD.

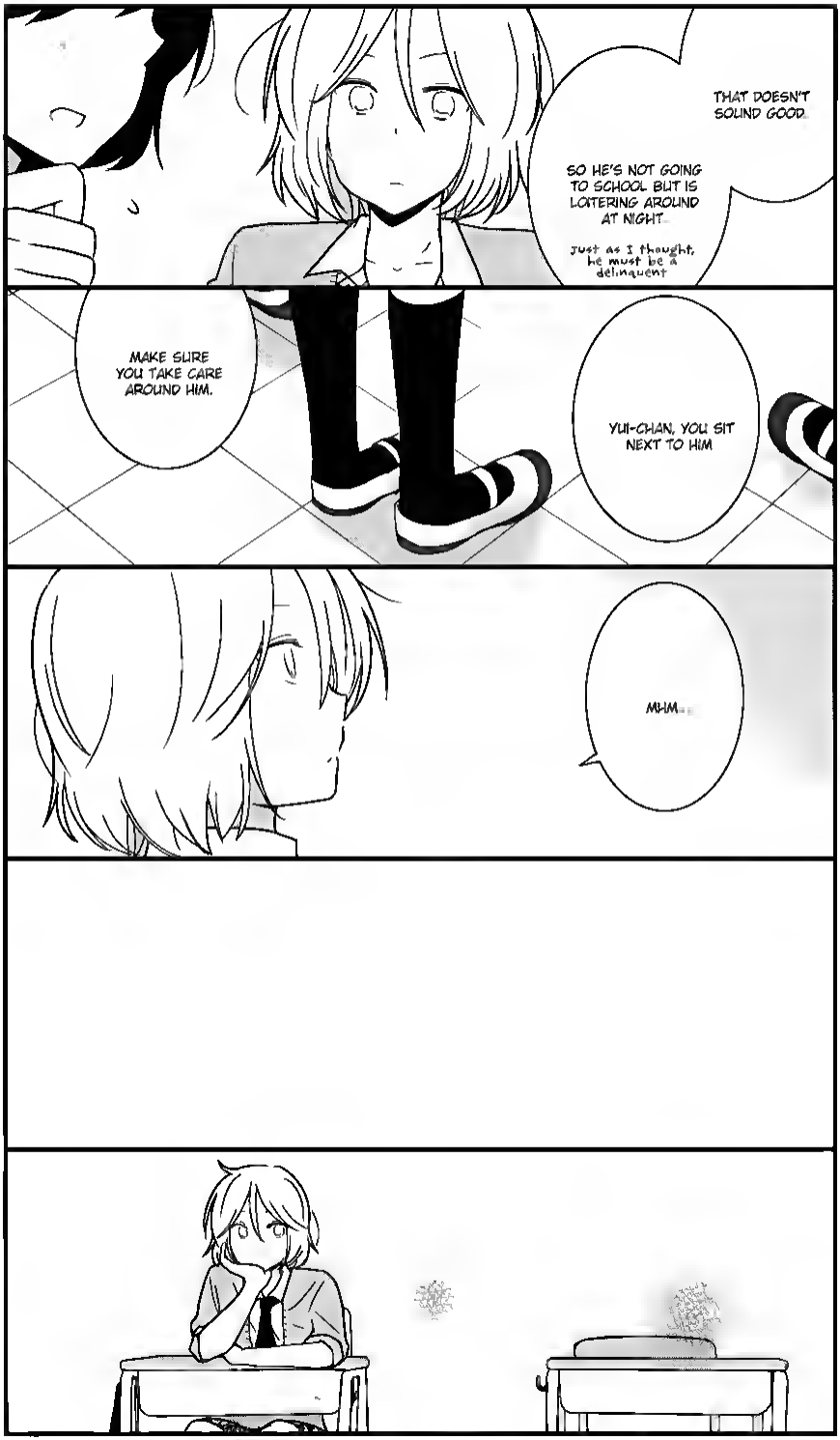
BASICALLY—
TACHIBANA SERIOUSLY PISSES ME OFF!
HE TALKED TO ME LIKE I WAS SOME KIND OF BRAINLESS AIRHEAD.
I SEE.
YOU TWO AREN'T EVEN LISTENING TO ME!
YES WE ARE.
KAZUMA, IS THIS HOW YOU USE THIS FORMULA?
No, that's wrong.
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT SADDLED WITH A RATHER TROUBLESOME JOB THIS TIME AROUND, YUUTA
PRETTY MUCH.
I'M GLAD THE TEACHER NEEDS MY POPULARITY FOR THIS.
HE'S EVEN HARDER TO HANDLE THAN YU! IS

TACHIBANA-KUN HUH...
HE TOTALLY JUST BOUGHT HIM OUT.
BUT! IF I MANAGE TO GET THE JOB DONE THE TEACHER'LL LET ME OFF WITH JUST AN ESSAY FOR BEING LATE.
SO I'M GONNA DO MY BEST!
YEAH.
AH, IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE.
WE NEED TO GET GOING KAZUMA.
HE GAVE US TICKETS
HIKARU'S DOING A MINI LIVE SHOW WITH HIS FRIENDS TODAY.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
RIGHT.
WE'LL BE GOING NOW BUT--
DON'T GO OVERBOARD NOW, YUUTA.

TCH.
I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE SINCE THEY'RE IN THE SAME CLASS, BUT STILL...
THOSE TWO HAVE BEEN HANGING OUT A LOT RECENTLY
I MEAN, TECHINCALLY I HAVE FRIENDS IN MY CLASS TOO.
BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S KIND OF—
They're all nice girls but
MAN—
THIS SUCKS—

HE...
DIDN'T COME TODAY EITHER...
しょぼーん
I'M SORRY-
I COULDN'T GET THE FORM FOR THE SPORTS MEET UP
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, HE PROBABLY WON'T SHOW UP FOR IT ANYWAY
WHATCHA GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
JUST ABOUT TACHIBANA-KUN
AND HOW DIDN'T COME TO SCHOOL TODAY EITHER

LATE LAST NIGHT
SPEAKING OF TACHIBANA-KUN,
I SAW HIM YESTERDAY
REALLY?
I ENDED UP HAVING TO STAY LATER THAN USUAL AT MY PART TIME JOB
WHILE I WAS WAITING AT THE INTERSECTION FOR THE LIGHT TO CHANGE
I SAW HIM AT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STREET.
HE WAS WITH SOME SHADY LOOKING ADULTS
THERE WAS A KIND OF SCARY ATMOSPHERE ABOUT THEM.


THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD...
SO HE'S NOT GOING TO SCHOOL BUT IS LOITERING AROUND AT NIGHT...
just as I thought, he must be a delinquent
YUI-CHAN, YOU SIT NEXT TO HIM
MAKE SURE YOU TAKE CARE AROUND HIM.
MM-HM...

STOP YOUR YAPPING YOU STUPID BITCH!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
WELL.
I MADE A MAN'S PROMISE TO THE TEACHER, SO I GUESS I GOTTA DO IT

SHISYUNKI

BITTER CHANGE

POLARIS COMICS / MASAYOSHI

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「ネットの中の教会」

Step.22
Something Important
YEAH, I THOUGHT I'D LOOK THROUGH THESE FIRST.
YOU HAVEN'T TRIED THIS SECTION YET HAVE YOU, KAZUMA?

フゥ
TIRED?
HUH? OH, NO
IT'S JUST EVEN AFTER ALL THIS SEARCHING WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND A SINGLE LEAD.
THERE HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN ANY REPORTS OF PEOPLE SWITCHING PERSONALITIES
MAYBE THERE JUST ISN'T A WAY FOR US TO SWITCH BACK.

WE'VE LOOKED THROUGH MEDICAL SCIENCE BOOKS, NATURAL SCIENCE BOOKS, BIOLOGY BOOKS, AND OF COURSE WE TRIED THE INTERNET AND NEWSPAPERS TOO.
THERE HASN'T BEEN A SINGLE MENTION OF PEOPLE SWITCHING PLACES.
THE ONLY HITS WE GOT WERE FOR FICTION NOVELS AND MANGA.
THOSE WON'T BE OF ANY HELP...
MAYBE...
WE NEED A DIFFERENT APPROACH

カ□□□ノ
WHOOPS
THAT WAS CLOSE.
HUH?
THIS BOOK DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT BELONGS IN THIS SECTION
Maybe someone accidentally left it here
ジッ…
パラ…
ゾクッ

I THOUGHT MAYBE WE MIGHT FIND SOMETHING THIS TIME SINCE IT'S SUCH A HUGE LIBRARY.
NO LUCK TODAY EITHER.
ガチャッ
THANK YOU, KAZUMA.
IS IT REALLY OK FOR YOU TO ALWAYS BE SPENDING YOUR TIME HELPING ME OUT?
IT'S FINE, I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TODAY
Yuuta always gets sleepy when I bring him so he doesn't even read anything
SOMETHING WRONG, KAZUMA?
HM? OH, IT'S NOTHING.
OH YEAH, YUI,
WANNA GO GET CREPES?
WHAT?

C-CREPES?
WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?
Two guys going to get crepes?
ALL THIS READING MAKES YOU WANT TO GO EAT SOMETHING SWEET, DOESN'T IT?
COME ON, LET'S GO!
O-OK...
I don't think I've had crepes since I was in elementary school

G'MORNING, KAZUMA.
MORNING, HIKARU.
OH, GOOD MORNING TAKAOKA-KUN.
GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING
HEY, KAZUMA!
SORRY, BUT COULD YOU HELP ME WITH MY ENGLISH LATER TODAY?
WE'RE HAVING A QUIZ TODAY.
AGAIN?
YOU REALLY ARE POPULAR, KAZUMA.
ぎゅっ

NOT REALLY.
YOU'RE JUST BEING HUMBLE.
UH...
Like that apple pie thing?
I even wrote songs!
AND HERE I THOUGHT ALL YOU NEEDED TO BE POPULAR WAS A GUITAR!
BUT I'M NOT POPULAR AT ALL!
ALOOF, HUH?
YOU THINK I'D BE MORE POPULAR IF I WAS MORE ALOOF LIKE YOU, KAZUMA?
I'M NOT REALLY LIKE THAT AT ALL.
Everyone seems to say I'm like that too
SO— WHAT DO YOU ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT?
WELL, MY SISTER, MY FAMILY, MY FRIENDS...

THEY'RE ALL VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
A-AM I COUNTED AMONG THOSE FRIENDS?
OF COURSE
AWESOME!
HIKARU'S A LOT LIKE YUUTA.
ALRIGHT, YOU TWO HAVE DAY DUTY TODAY.
PLEASE TAKE THESE NOTEBOOKS TO THE STAFF ROOM.

THESE ARE REALLY HEAVY. SUCKS THAT I HAD DUTY TODAY...
YEAH. WE STILL HAVE TO ERASE THE BLACKBOARD AFTER THIS TOO
THAT LOOKS HEAVY.
WANT SOME HELP?
REALLY? THANKS.
LOOKS LIKE YAMADA-KUN WILL CARRY THEM FOR ME,
SO I'LL GO ERASE THE BLACKBOARD
OK.
....
YUUTA!
GOT DAY DUTY TODAY? LET ME HELP.

I'M GOOD.
BUT IT'S HEAVY ISN'T IT?
NOT REALLY IT'S ONE THING IF I WAS A GIRL. BUT I'M A GUY RIGHT NOW.
I CAN CARRY IT.
HAND'EM OVER

COME ON, LET'S GO
I-I SAID I WAS FINE.
KA-
KAZUMA!
ARE YOU ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
HEY.
HUH?

I... I GUESS SO.
I MEAN—
I KIND OF HAVE TO... DON'T I?
I'M A GUY NOW.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT IT.
SO I JUST HAVE TO GRIT MY TEETH AND DO IT, RIGHT?

EVER SINCE WE SWITCHED PLACES...
NO ONE'S TREATED ME LIKE A GIRL...

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS
I THOUGHT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING A BIT DOWN RECENTLY,
BUT IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT THIS
SORRY I DIDN'T NOTICE
Y-YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE!
I'M SORRY FOR SAYING ALL THIS
SORRY, I WON'T COMPLAIN ANYMORE
EVEN YUUTA HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL THIS AND HE'S NOT COMPLAINING
HE'D GET MAD SEEING ME LIKE THIS

YUI.
EVEN IF THIS HAND I'M TOUCHING RIGHT NOW IS A GUY'S HAND...
YOU'RE STILL YOU.
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO TO HELP...
BUT I PROMISE I'LL STAY BY YOUR SIDE

I'M HERE FOR YOU.

I HAVEN'T SEEN YULITA OR KAZUMA ANYWHERE. I WONDER WHERE THEY WENT.
THERE THEY ARE.

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FOR NEXT WEEK'S SPORTS MEET.
For table tennis
HAVE YOU EVER PLAYED BEFORE, HIKARU?
YEAH, BUT I SUCK AT IT.
I SEE
KAZUMA'S PLAYING SOCCER, RIGHT?
THE GIRLS WERE GETTING ALL EXCITED ABOUT IT.
He's amazing

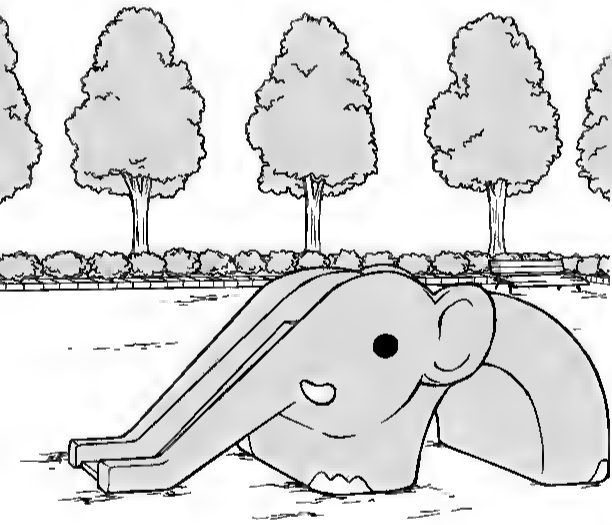
I WONDER IF YOU'RE ONE OF THE IMPORTANT THINGS THAT KAZUMA WAS TALKING ABOUT
ポン
WELL, I WAS JUST TALKING TO HIM THIS MORNING
HE ALWAYS LOOKS SO ALOOF,
BUT HE'S ALWAYS REALLY KIND TO YOU, YUUTA.
カアア

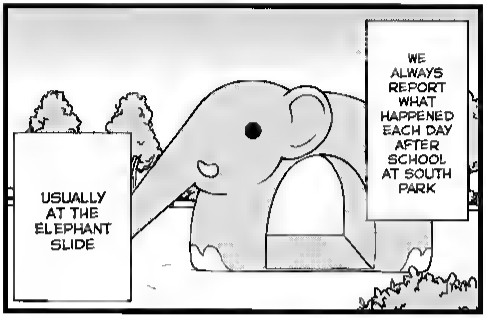
THAT'S NOT QUITE...
WELL YOU'RE NOT WRONG BUT—
SORRY.
YOU MUST THINK I'M WEIRD.
WHY?

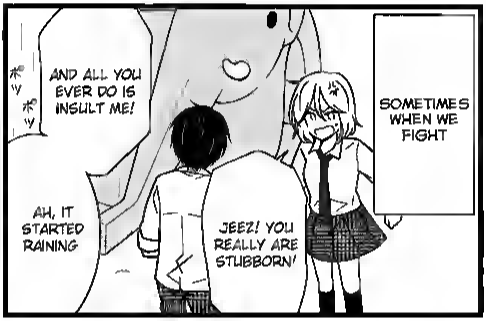
DON'T WORRY!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I'LL ALWAYS LIKE YOU, YULITA!
フッ

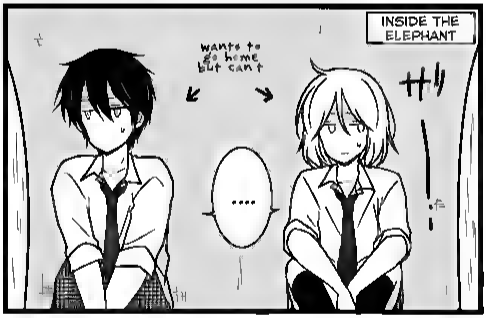
THANK YOU, HIKARU!
HU—
HUH?
WHAT?

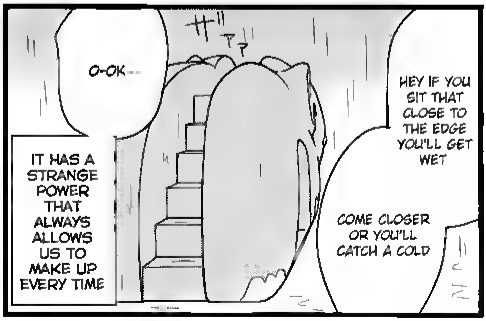
Our Elephant Slide

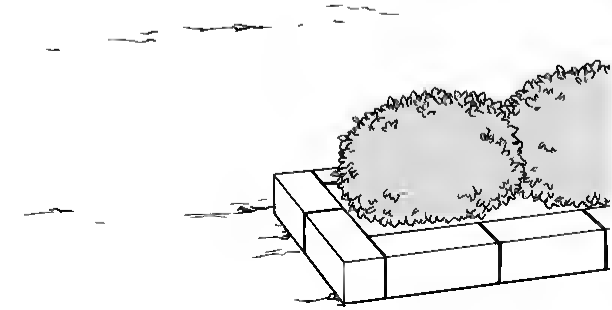









O-OK...
IT HAS A STRANGE POWER THAT ALWAYS ALLOWS US TO MAKE UP EVERY TIME
HEY IF YOU SIT THAT CLOSE TO THE EDGE YOU'LL GET WET
COME CLOSER OR YOU'LL CATCH A COLD



SHISYUNKI

BITTER CHANGE

POLARIS COMICS / MASAYOSHI

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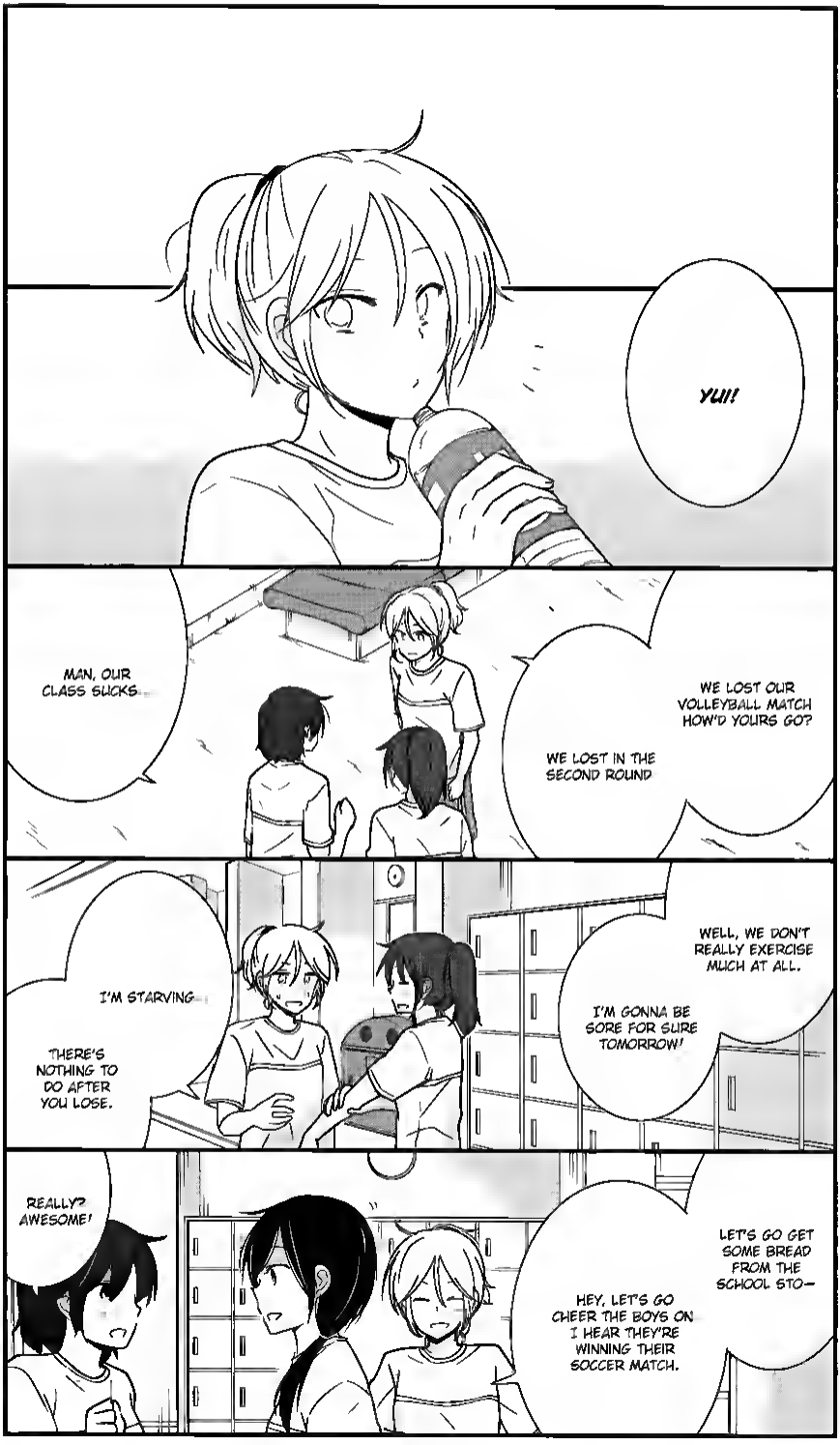
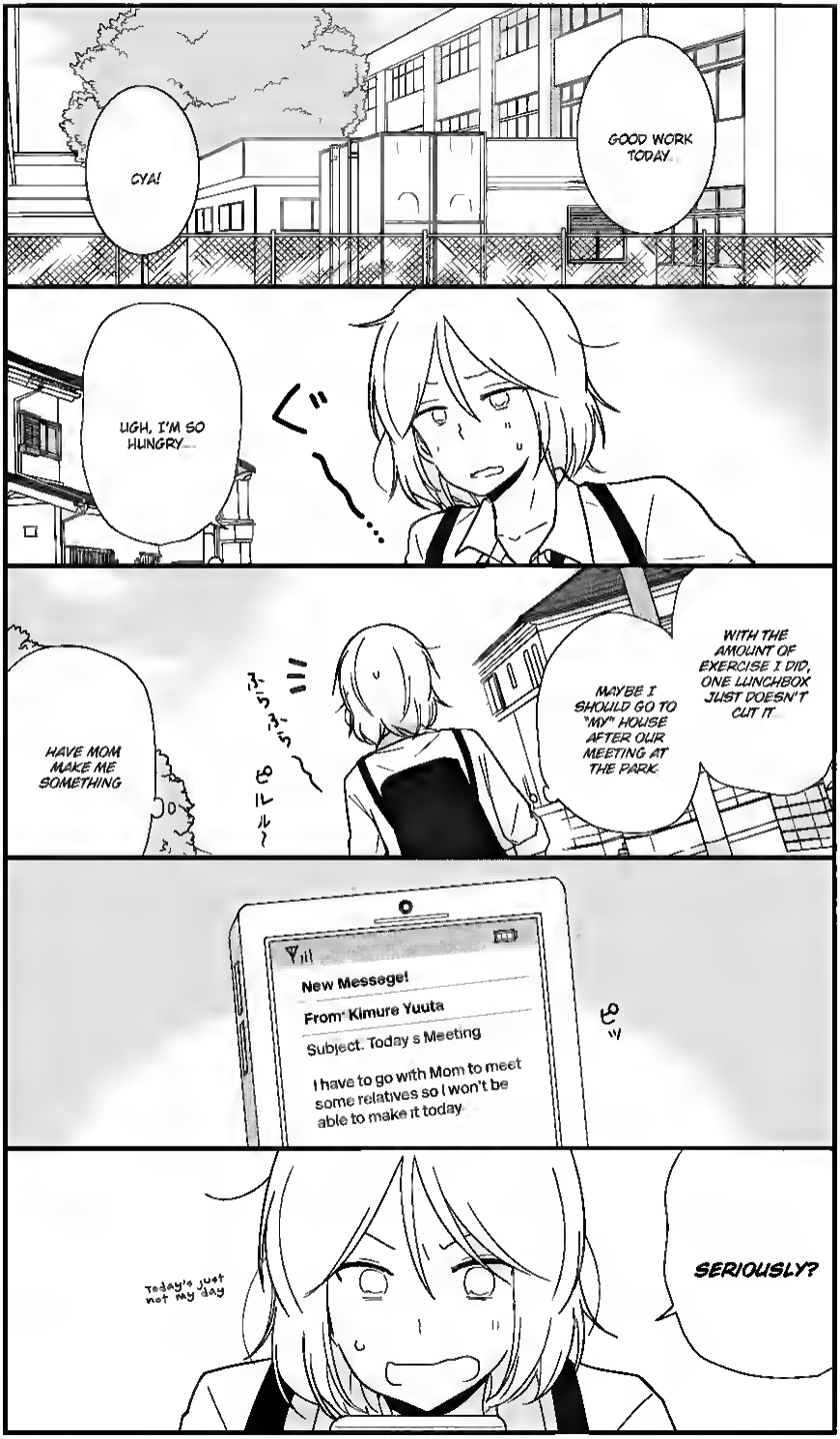
Step.23
His Circum-
stances
....
Do your best!

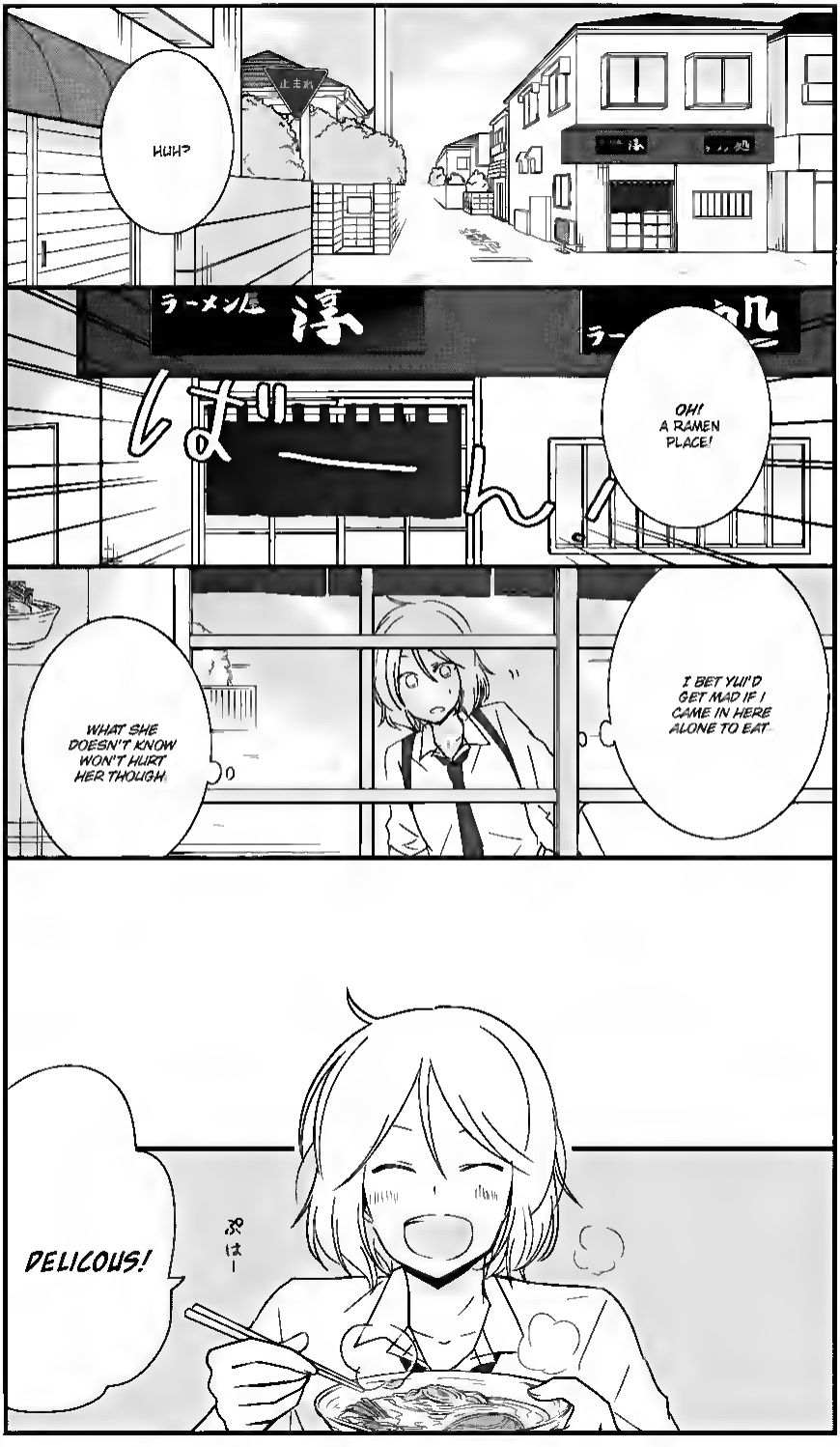
I'M HERE FOR YOU.
ボ
NO, NO, NO, NO!
THAT'S NOT WHAT HE MEANT!
WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN STUCK IN DIFFERNT CLASSES SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,
AND NOW THAT WE'RE FINALLY IN THE SAME CLASS-,

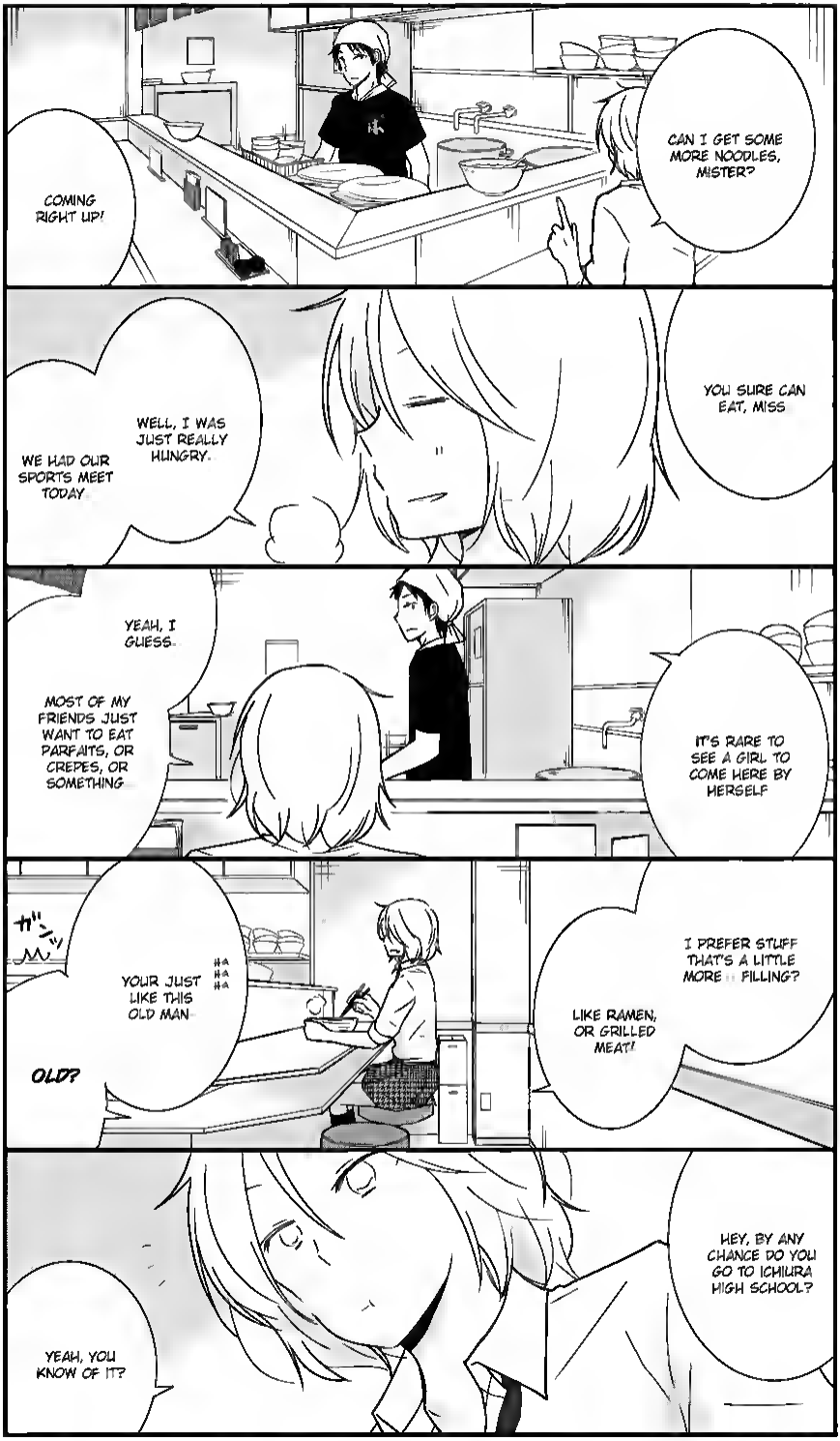
HE MEANS HE'LL BE HERE FOR ME
AS A FELLOW CLASSMATE.
THAT'S ALL.
THAT'S... ALL...


YUI!
MAN, OUR CLASS SUCKS...
WE LOST OUR VOLLEYBALL MATCH HOW'D YOURS GO?
WE LOST IN THE SECOND ROUND
I'M STARVING...
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO AFTER YOU LOSE.
WELL, WE DON'T REALLY EXERCISE MUCH AT ALL.
I'M GONNA BE SORE FOR SURE TOMORROW!
REALLY? AWESOME!
HEY, LET'S GO CHEER THE BOYS ON I HEAR THEY'RE WINNING THEIR SOCCER MATCH.
LET'S GO GET SOME BREAD FROM THE SCHOOL STO—

YEAH, LET'S GO!
I'd rather get some food...
I'm really hungry
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT WATCHING GUYS ANYWAY.
CHEERING THE GUYS ON? THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PAIN.
HUH? OH, OK.
COME ON, YU! HURRY UP!
I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED THIS,
BUT WHY THE HELL DO GIRLS ALWAYS HAVE TO DO THESE THINGS IN GROUPS?
AH, THOSE GUYS.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A LOT OF FUN.
I WISH I COULD GO JOIN THEM TOO...
I like soccer


GOOD WORK TODAY...
CYA!
UGH, I'M SO HUNGRY...
ぐ～～～
WITH THE AMOUNT OF EXERCISE I DID, ONE LUNCHBOX JUST DOESN'T CUT IT
MAYBE I SHOULD GO TO "MY" HOUSE AFTER OUR MEETING AT THE PARK
HAVE MOM MAKE ME SOMETHING
ぐ～～～
New Message!
From: Kimura Yuuta
Subject. Today s Meeting
I have to go with Mom to meet some relatives so I won't be able to make it today
SERIOUSLY?
Today's just not my day


HUH?
止まれ
ラーメン屋 凉
OH! A RAMEN PLACE!
I BET YUI'D GET MAD IF I CAME IN HERE ALONE TO EAT.
WHAT SHE DOESN'T KNOW WON'T HURT HER THOUGH.
ぷはー
DELICOUS!


CAN I GET SOME MORE NOODLES, MISTER?
COMING RIGHT UP!
YOU SURE CAN EAT, MISS
WELL, I WAS JUST REALLY HUNGRY.
WE HAD OUR SPORTS MEET TODAY.
IT'S RARE TO SEE A GIRL TO COME HERE BY HERSELF
YEAH, I GUESS.
MOST OF MY FRIENDS JUST WANT TO EAT PARFAITS, OR CREPES, OR SOMETHING.
I PREFER STUFF THAT'S A LITTLE MORE FILLING?
LIKE RAMEN, OR GRILLED MEAT!
ガ"ンッ
YOUR JUST LIKE THIS OLD MAN.
HA HA HA
OLD?
HEY, BY ANY CHANCE DO YOU GO TO ICHIURA HIGH SCHOOL?
YEAH, YOU KNOW OF IT?

I SEE
OHH—
SO THEY HAD THEIR SPORTS MEET TODAY?
COME AGAIN
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
ラーメン屋
ブロロ…
キッ
JUN-SAN, I FINISHED THE DELIVERIES
カラッ

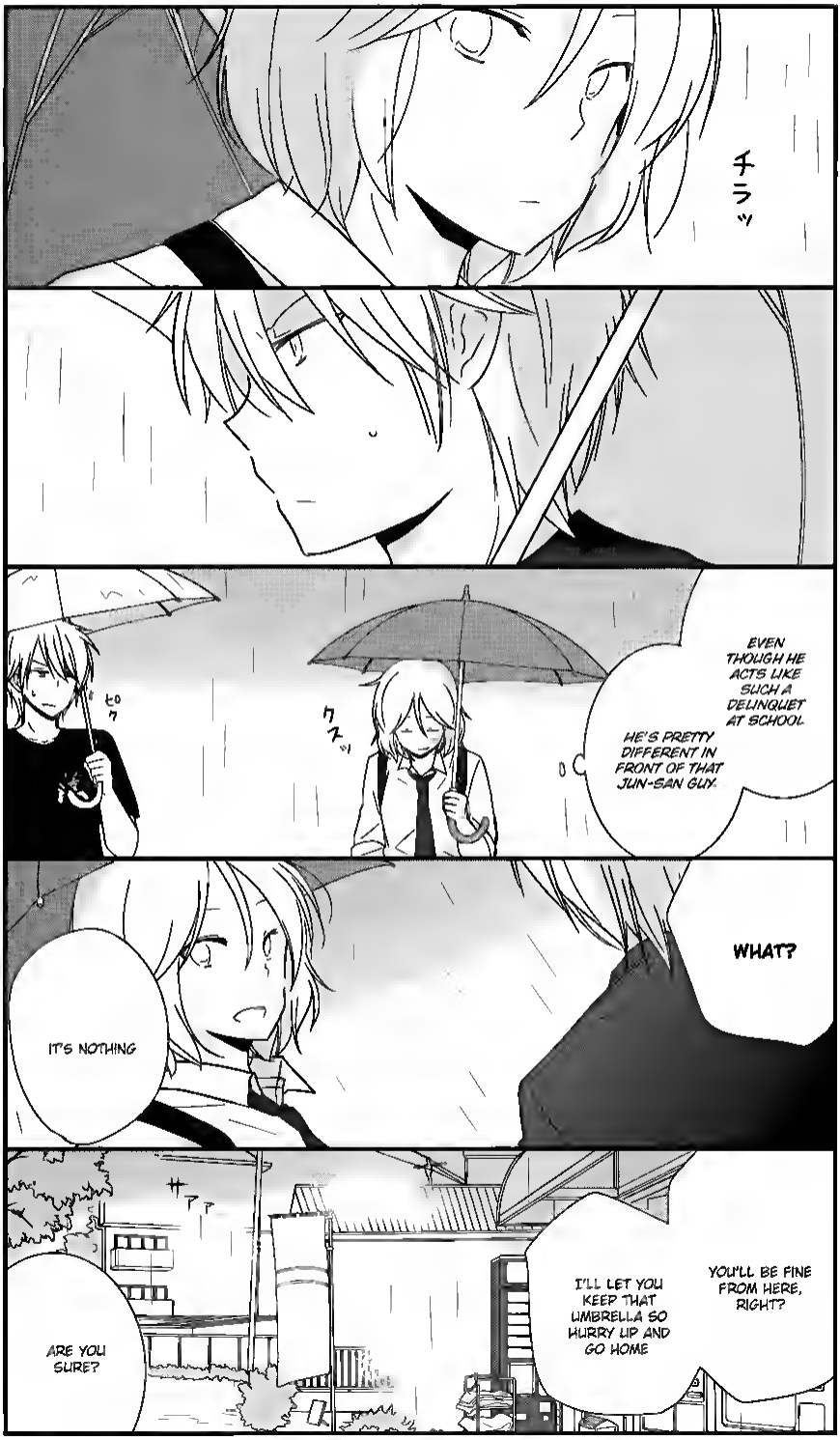
T-TACHIBANA?

I JUST CAME BY TO EAT RAMEN
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
WELCOME BACK, HAYATO
YOU TWO KNOW EACH OTHER?
OH, SO YOU'RE CLASS-MATES.
YEAH... WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS
BUT JUN-SAN,
WHAT IS SHE DOING HERE!?
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
ガシッ
OI, HAYATO.

owwww—
Is that how you talk to a guest?
Fix that foul mouth of yours.
You had your sports meet today, didn't you?
And you did have school today, so what was that bullshit about there being a day off?
This guy's pretty foul-mouthed too
Sports meets are boring anyway, there's no need for me to go to them!
That's not an excuse!
I get that you want to start working and become an adult,
but you still need to go to school.
Fine.

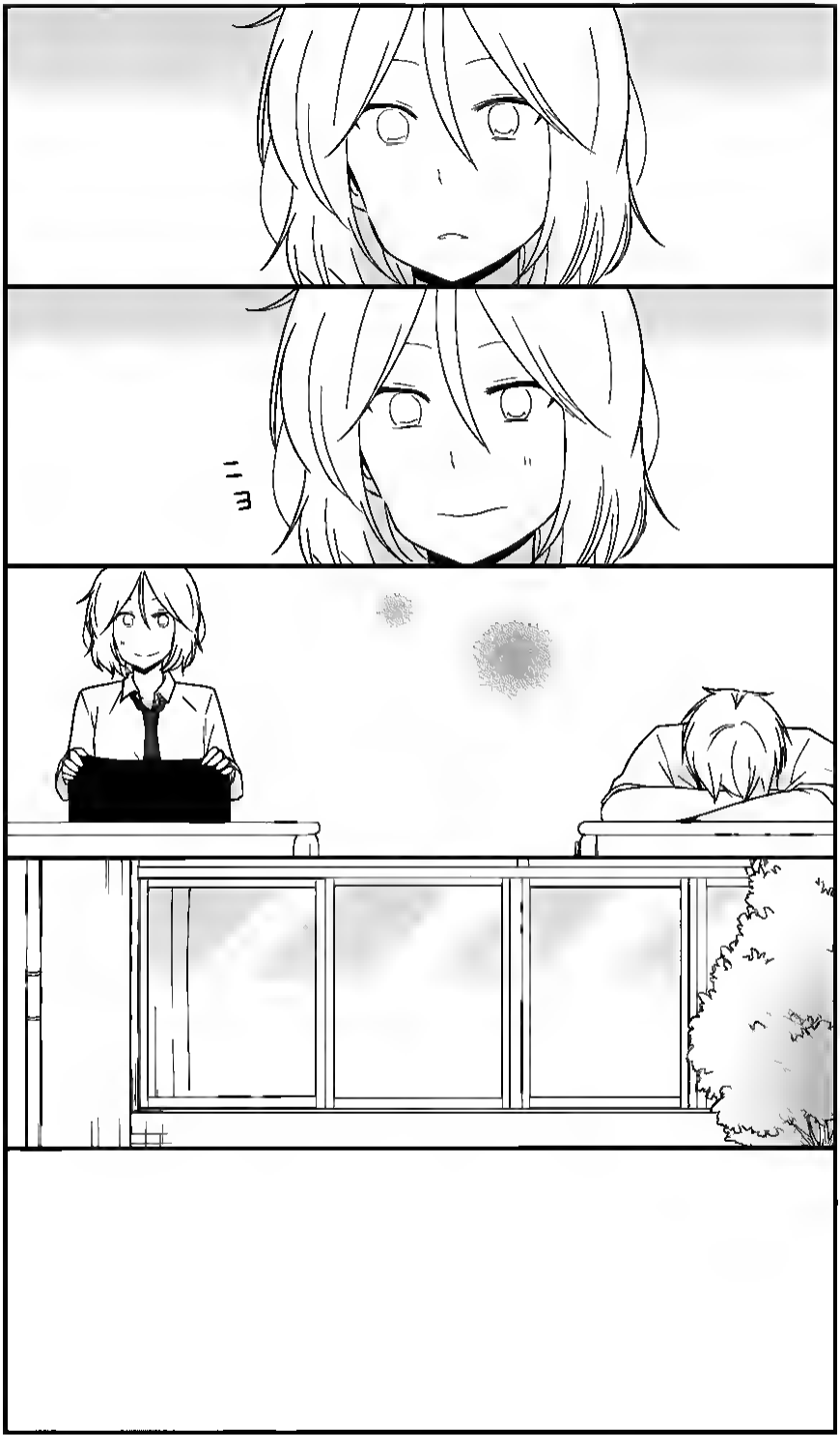
AHH...
SO HE WASN'T COMING TO SCHOOL BECAUSE HE WAS WORKING HERE?
HE WASN'T JUST FOOLING AROUND.
涼
ラーメン屋 涼
ホ。ク
ホ。ク
AH, IT STARTED RAINING
サアア
WHAT? WHY DO I—
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY DARK OUT TOO
SEE HER HOME, HAYATO
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME I EASILY MAKE IT IF I RUN
Here's an umbrella

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "A GIRL LIKE HER" HUH?
How rude!
BESIDES, NO ONE WOULD EVEN WANT TO ASSAULT A GIRL LIKE HER
YOU CAN JUST GO HOME BY YOURSELF
HAHAHA, YOU TWO GET ALONG PRETTY WELL.
LOOKS LIKE YOU DO HAVE FRIENDS! I WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU, YOU KNOW.
FRIE—
SHE'S NOT MY FRIEND!
....


チラッ
EVEN THOUGH HE ACTS LIKE SUCH A DELINQUET AT SCHOOL
HE'S PRETTY DIFFERENT IN FRONT OF THAT JUN-SAN GUY.
WHAT?
IT'S NOTHING
ARE YOU SURE?
I'LL LET YOU KEEP THAT UMBRELLA SO HURRY UP AND GO HOME
YOU'LL BE FINE FROM HERE, RIGHT?

THANKS THEN
BY THE WAY, TACHIBANA
YOU SHOULD COME TO SCHOOL
WE'RE ALL WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THANKS FOR THE UMBRELLA
ザァァ

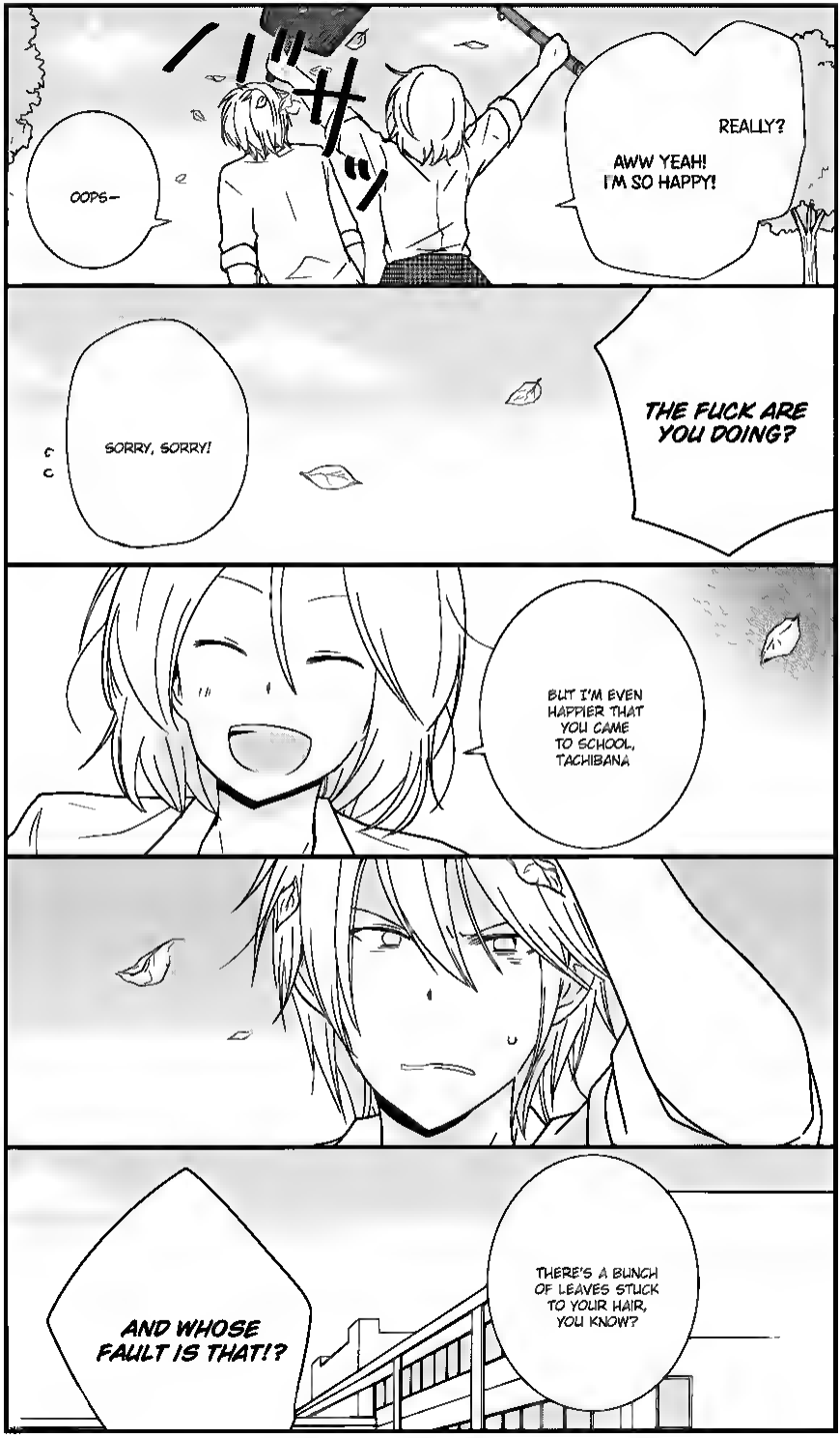
1-3
morning
oh
tachibana-
kun's birth-
day


ニヨ

TACHIBANA!
I'M GLAD YOU CAME TODAY.
DON'T SKIP ANYMORE, OK?
WELL I'M NOT
THANKS TO YOU, JUN-SAN FOUND OUT I'VE BEEN SKIPPING SCHOOL. IT SERIOUSLY SUCKED!
OH YEAH!
JUN-SAN'S RAMEN WAS DELICIOUS!

OF COURSE, THE SOUP WAS GOOD, BUT THE CHASHU PORK WAS GREAT!
TO THINK, THERE WAS SUCH A GOOD RAMEN PLACE SO CLOSE BY AND I NEVER KNEW.
'COURSE IT'S GREAT.
JUST HOW MUCH TIME DO YOU THINK JUN-SAN SPENT PERFECTING THE TASTE?
HE'S WON AWARDS FOR HIS RAMEN.
THAT'S HOW AMAZING A GUY HE IS.
THAT'S PRETTY COOL!
WHATEVER
I'M TIRED OF THIS SO YOU CAN FINISH RAKING THESE LEAVES
BUT I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT THAT RAMEN PLACE!

ISN'T IT BORING?
NOT AT ALL, IT'S PRETTY INTERESTING
FAR MORE INTERESTING THAN TALKING ABOUT CLOTHES OR GUYS ANYWAY
YOU'RE PRETTY WEIRD, YOU KNOW THAT?
....
Ahaha
I GUESS SO
OH.
ABOUT JUN-SAN...
ホリ ホリ
HE SAID HE'D TREAT YOU TO SOME EXTRA RAMEN, SO YOU'RE FREE TO COME ANYTIME


OOPS—
REALLY?
AWW YEAH! I'M SO HAPPY!
SORRY, SORRY!
THE FUCK ARE YOU DOING?
BUT I'M EVEN HAPPIER THAT YOU CAME TO SCHOOL, TACHIBANA
THERE'S A BUNCH OF LEAVES STUCK TO YOUR HAIR, YOU KNOW?
AND WHOSE FAULT IS THAT!?

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Step 24
And So They Move Forward
チュン チュン
カチカチ…
ヒソッ
MMN
HEY, KAZUMA!

MORNING, YUI.
YOU SURE ARE HAPPY THIS MORNING
HEHE, YEAH, I GUESS!
OH RIGHT YOU LIKE RAMEN TOO, DON'T YOU KAZUMA?
RAMEN? YEAH I DO, BUT—
IF YOU DON'T HAVE CRAM SCHOOL TOMORROW, WANNA COME EAT WITH ME?
I FOUND THIS REALLY NICE PLACE!
SORRY, I HAVE PLANS TOMORROW.
ACTUALLY, NEVERMIND.
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT SO I SHOULD JUST TELL HIM I CAN'T MAKE IT.
WERE YOU MEETING UP WITH SOMEONE?
WHO'VE YOU BEEN TEXTING THIS WHOLE TIME ANYWAY?
Hey, it's Kazuma and Yui-chan
IS IT A GIRL? DID YOU FINALLY GET A GIRLFRIEND?
As if!
MORNING YOU TWO. WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Hm?
YEAH.
WHAT?
I'M TEXTING MY GIRLFRIEND.
えええええ

NO, I MEAN A REAL PERSON
ギャア ギャア
YEAH, THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
OH, I KNOW! YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT A GAME CHARACTER OR SOMETHING RIGHT?
WHAT!? SERIOUSLY!? NO WAY!
WAIT, SO YOU'VE BEEN TEXTING YOUR GIRLFRIEND THIS WHOLE TIME?
YOU ONLY EVER GIVE ME ONE WORD REPLIES!
WHO IS SHE?
COME TO THINK OF IT,
DOES YUUTA KNOW ABOUT THIS?
NO?
I MEAN, I WAS ONLY CONFESSED TO LAST NIGHT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY GOT A GIRLFRIEND, KAZUMA!
OH? COULD IT BE THAT YOU LIKE KAZUMA, YUI-CHAN?
NO! IT'S JUST...
I sort of feel like I got one upped by him

SEE YOU LATER YUI-CHAN
キーン コーン カーン…
SEE YA
KAZUMA
ABOUT THAT GIRLFRIEND OF YOURS—
EH?
IF EVERYONE FOUND OUT THEY'D BE QUITE SURPRISED, DON'T YOU THINK?
ESPECIALLY THE GIRLS!
DON'T WORRY,
I DON'T EXACTLY PLAN ON TELLING THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT IT
I-I SEE YEAH!
BUT I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN YOU SAID YOU GOT A GIRLFRIEND…
man I'm jealous

BURGER WOKER
SURE IS HOT TODAY
IT'S PRETTY NICE TO HAVE INFORMATION EXCHANGES IN PLACES LIKE THESE FROM TIME TO TIME
DO YOU HAVE TO EAT SO MUCH?
YOU ONLY EVER EAT FATTY FOODS TOO!
seriously
I EXERCISE JUST AS MUCH SO IT'S FINE!

WELL, WHATEVER
ANYWAY, SOME GIRL FROM ANOTHER CLASS ASKED FOR MY EMAIL ADDRESS
WHAT?
WHO IS SHE?
I HAVE NO IDEA.
SHE SEEMED TO KNOW ME THOUGH, BUT I STILL TURNED HER DOWN.
SERIOUSLY? WHAT A WASTE!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE I'M SO GOOD LOOKING EVEN IF YOUR PERSONALITY ISN'T THE BEST, I'M STILL POPULAR.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S IT...
UP UNTIL NOW I REALLY HATED HAVING STUFF LIKE THIS HAPPEN TO ME
since I am a girl after all
BUT RECENTLY I'VE STOPPED CARING SO MUCH ABOUT HOW PEOPLE TREAT ME, OR THE FACT THAT I'M REALLY A GIRL

KAZUMA SAID THAT TO ME BACK THEN.
YOU'RE YOU.
PROBABLY BECAUSE
BUT MAN—
I CAN'T BELIEVE KAZUMA WOULD GET A GIRLFRIEND WITHOUT ME EVEN KNOWING ABOUT IT.
AND THEN HE JUST CASUALLY TELLS ME ABOUT IT LATER!
HM?

WHA—
WHAT?
A GIRLFRIEND?
YEAH, A GIRLFRIEND.
R-REALLY? THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD ABOUT IT...
ギュッ
YEAH, WELL, I GUESS HE WOULDN'T TELL YOU ABOUT IT.
I SEE... SO IS IT SOMEONE YOU KNOW?
APPARENTLY IT'S SOMEONE FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL.
CRAP.
ポロ
MY VOICE IS SHAKING.
MY FINGERS ARE GETTING COLD.
I'M NOT EVEN LISTENING TO WHAT YUUTA'S SAYING ANYMORE.

HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
ガタ..!
I—
I-I'M GOING HOME
I'LL SEE YOU—
TOMORROW—
HEY!
HOLD ON!
I STILL HAVE THINGS TO REPORT—

ハッ
ハッ
ハァ
I DIDN'T KNOW KAZUMA HAD A GIRLFRIEND..
ギュッ
HE NEVER TOLD ME ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
HE WAS ACTING LIKE HE USUALLY DOES.

Y-YEAH THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
MAYBE KAZUMA JUST SAID SOMETHING VAGUE AND HE MISINTERPRETED.
MAYBE YUUTA JUST MISUNDERSTOOD HIM.
BUT IF—
BUT IF HE REALLY HAS A GIRLFRIEND...
YUI.

HEY!
THERE YOU ARE
YUI!
AH!
JEEZ, WHAT'S UP WITH YOU? YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD
HUH?
YOU FORGOT YOUR BAG!

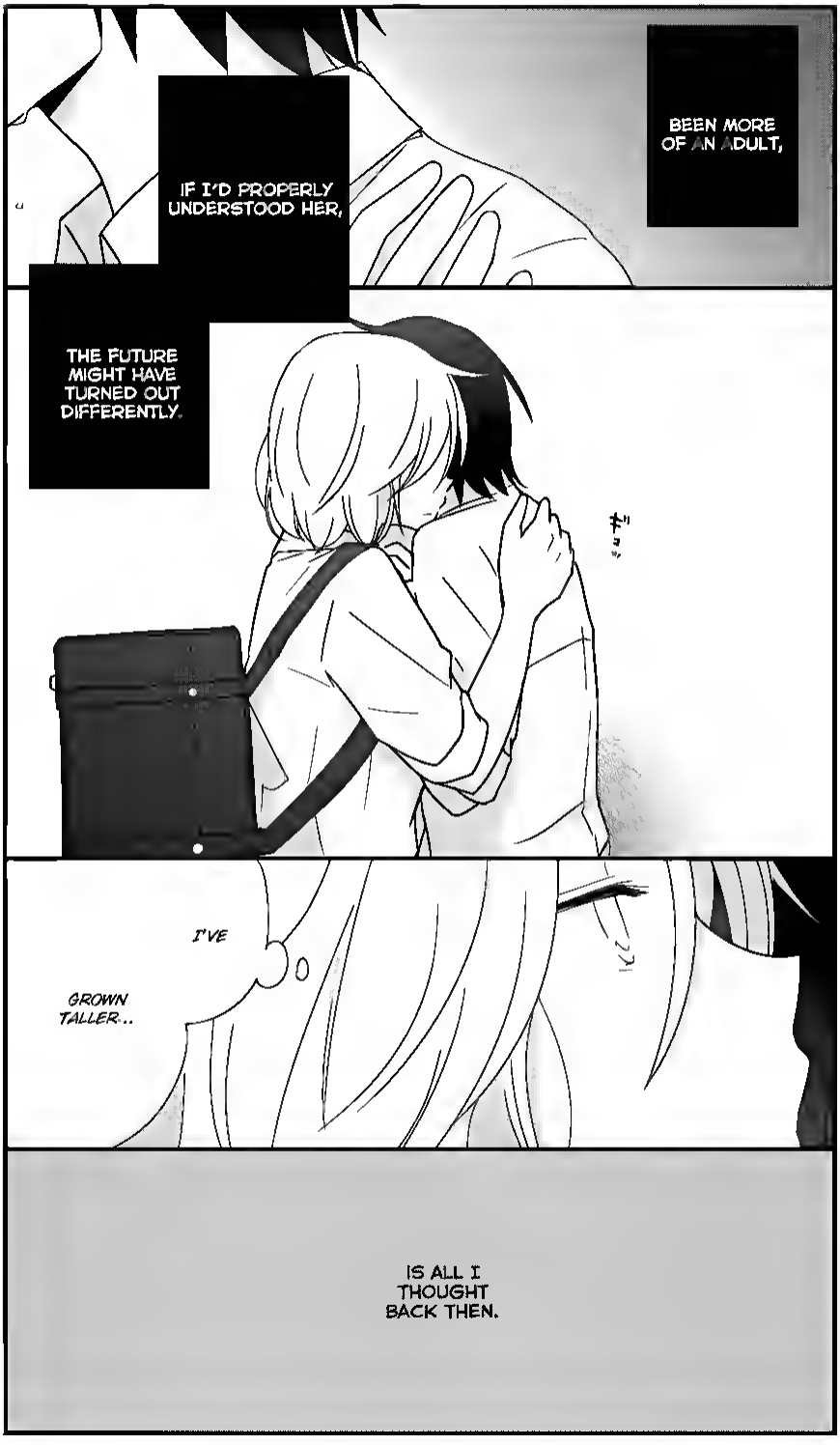
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
WHAT?
SORRY
THAT'S NOT AN ANSWER
COME ON
YOU KNOW WE PROMISED NOT TO HAVE ANY SECRETS BETWEEN EACH OTHER
IT'LL BE A PROBLEM IF YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON

SO TELL ME
I...
I THOUGHT I FINALLY FOUND SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTOOD ME
SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTOOD THE REAL ME
HE TOLD ME I WAS ME
HE TOLD ME HE'D BE THERE FOR ME!
BUT...

YUI?
BUT...
ポロ
タ
ッ

HE LIED TO ME.

S-SORRY...
IT'S NOTHING.
I-I'LL STOP CRYING SO—
BACK THEN,
WELL,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BUT...
IF I HAD


IF I'D PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD HER,
BEEN MORE OF AN ADULT,
THE FUTURE MIGHT HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY.
I'VE GROWN TALLER...
IS ALL I THOUGHT BACK THEN.

Thanks for having me over!
Yuuta And His Family
NEE-CHAN!
Haruki
LET'S GO PLAY SOME VIDEO GAMES, NEE-CHAN!
HEY, YOU'VE GROWN TALLER AGAIN, HARUKI!
ALRIGHT, SURE!
Yuuta Mama
LOOKS LIKE IT.
HARUKI'S BECOME REALLY ATTACHED TO YUI-CHAN
YUI-CHAN'S AN ONLY CHILD, RIGHT? BUT SHE GETS ALONG WITH HARUKI SO WELL—
WHEN I WATCH THE TWO OF THEM PLAYING TOGETHER THEY LOOK JUST LIKE ACTUAL SIBLINGS.
PLEASE, DON'T!
Why don't you marry her?
I NEED TO TELL YOUR FATHER ABOUT THIS!

HEY, YOU CAN'T JUST CHAIN THERE!
You cancelled my chain!
I HAD A SIX CHAIN COMBO GOING!
BUT NOW I LOST AGAIN!
FUFUFU. IF YOU THINK A SIX CHAIN IS GOOD THEN YOU STILL HAVE A LONG WAYS TO GO!
I'M NO GOOD IF I LOSE TO YOU IN A GAME LIKE THIS
I WANT TO BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BEAT ANYONE...
HARUKI
AND NOW THAT YOUR GUARD'S DOWN, TAKE THIS! TEN CHAIN!
THEY LOOK LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN
HEY! THAT'S NOT FAIR, HARUKI!
Yuuta
Haruki

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